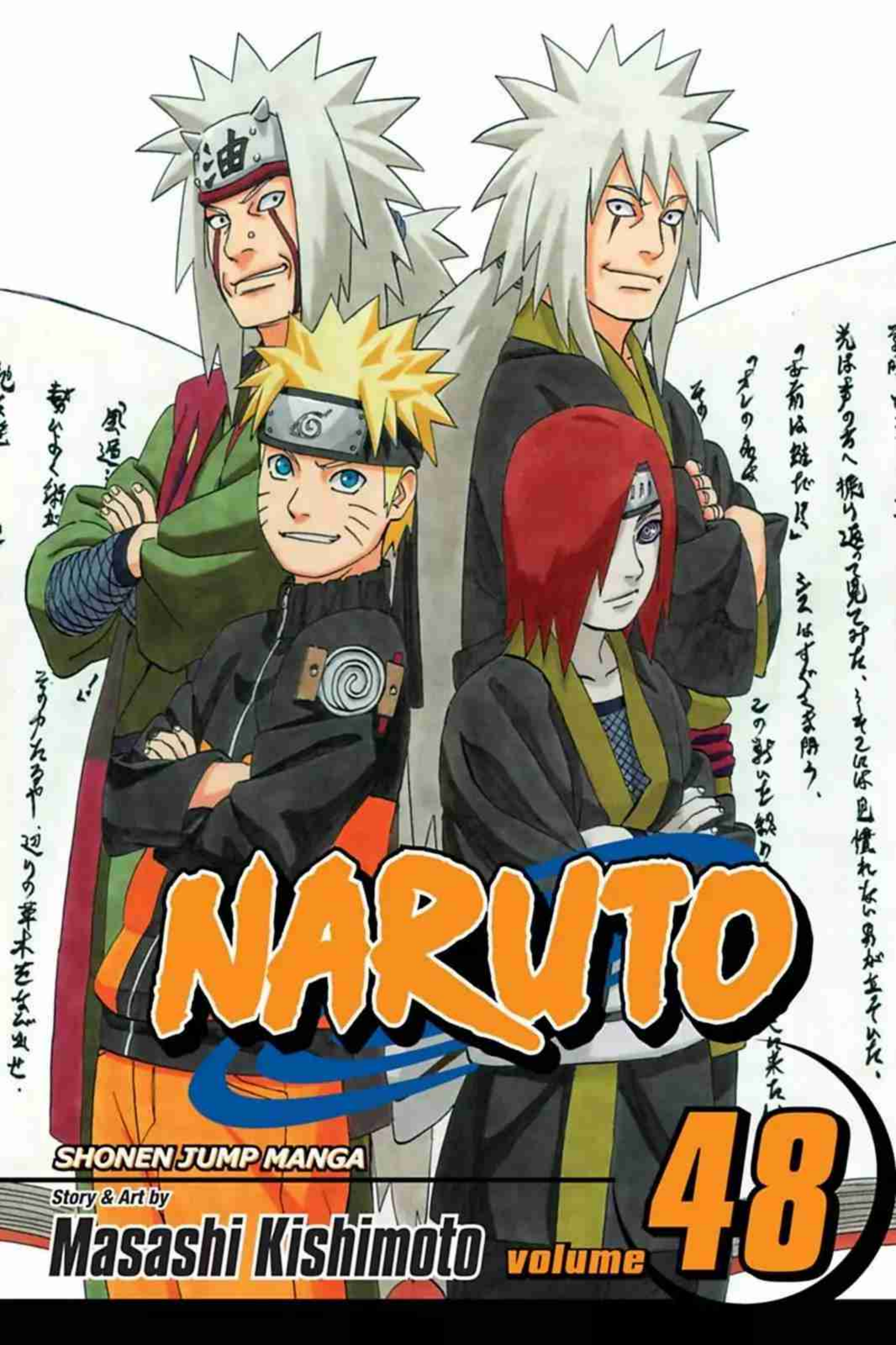




先ほその方へ振り返って見てみた、ここには你と僕れなない男が立っていた、

「お前は誰だ？」　ふまはすかゝる男が、

「おれの名は」

この男はと知り

こゝに来た

NARUTO

48

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Masashi Kishimoto

volume

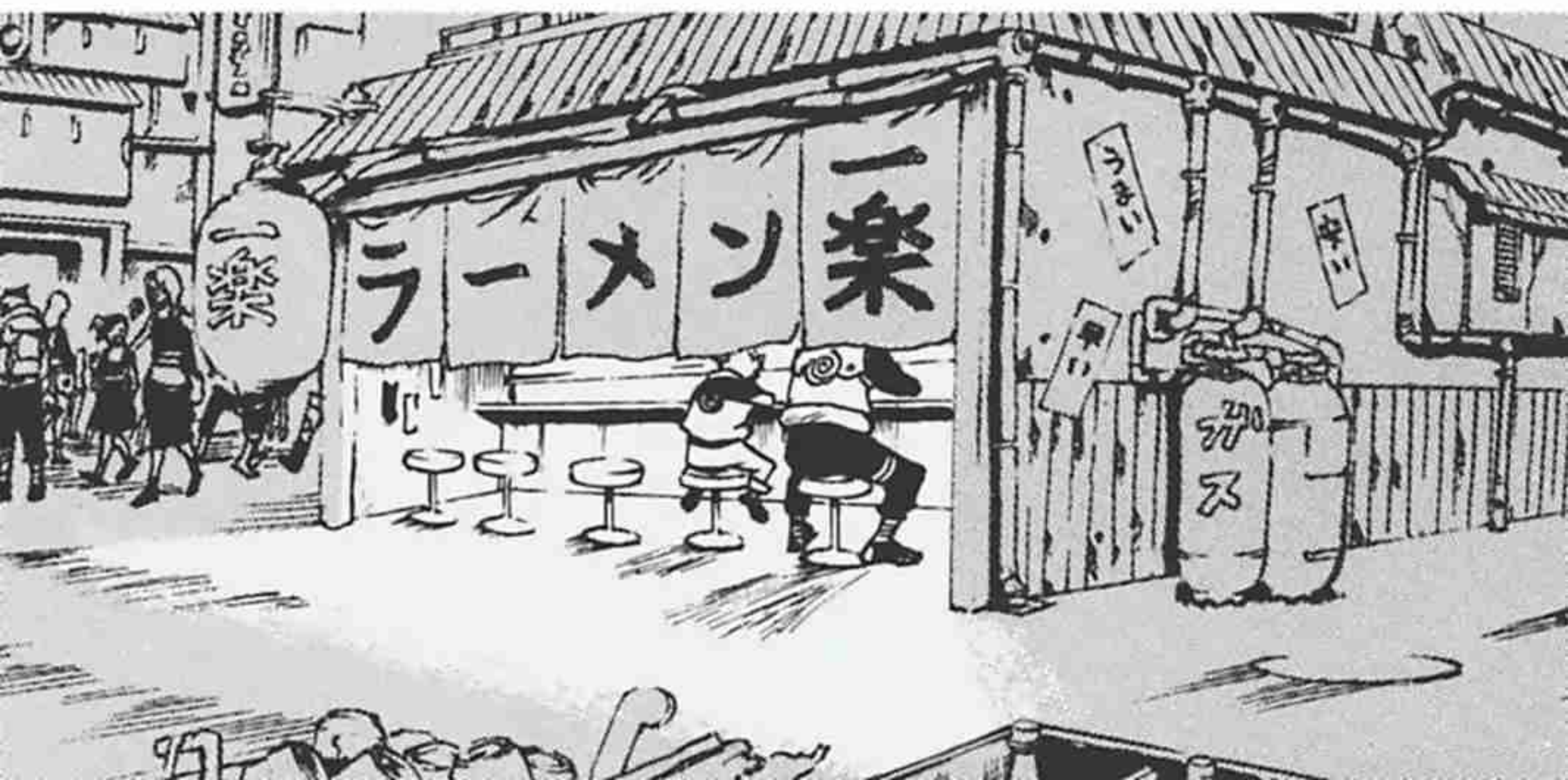


岸本 斉史

Ever since I wrote in the author's note of the previous book, volume 47, "The finale having been settled, I am drawing full steam ahead," lots of folks have been asking me, "Is the series ending soon?" but it is simply that the premise has been set; it will keep going for a long, long time! I shall not stop drawing at full steam, so please continue enjoying *Naruto* until the end!

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2009

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.





NARUTO VOL. 48
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

This graphic novel contains material that was originally published in English in SHONEN JUMP #82-84. Artwork in the magazine may have been slightly altered from that presented here.

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

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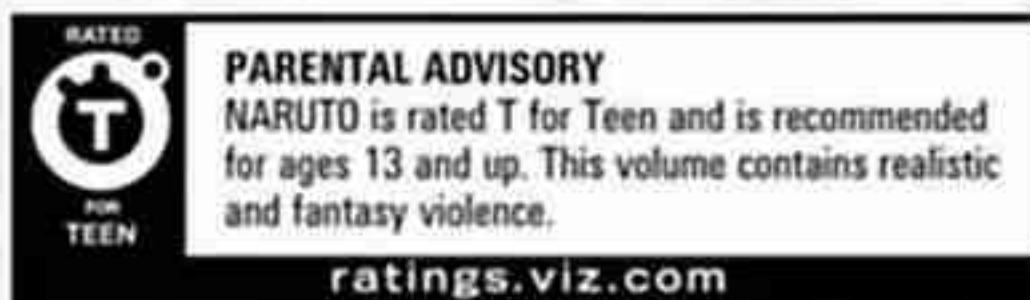
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First printing, June 2010





SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION

NARUTO



光は夢の方へ照り返って見えてきた。ここには居慣れない男が立っていた。

「お前は誰だ？」

「オレの名は」

この男を認めるためにここに来た。

「おれ」

VOL. 48

THE CHEERING VILLAGE

STORY AND ART BY

MASASHI KISHIMOTO

風通し

夢のへ

地を揺るごとく、風を切った。

その方からや。辺りの草木を揺らした。

CHARACTERS





Jugou 重吾



Karin 香燐



Suigetsu 水月



Konan 小南



Nagato 長門



Pain ペイン



Fukasaku フカサク



Itachi イタチ



Madara マダラ

THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power...

Two years pass. Naruto grows up and engages in fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki. Elsewhere, after winning the heroic battle against Itachi and learning his older brother's true intentions, Sasuke allies with Akatsuki and sets out to destroy Konoha!

During his battle against Pain, Naruto releases the Nine Tails' power... But when Naruto has a conversation with the Fourth Hokage, he regains control over himself and heads toward Pain's mastermind to end it all!!



NARUTO

VOL. 48
THE CHEERING VILLAGE

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 Number 443: The Interview!!



RRRRRRRRRRRR



Number 443: The Interview!!

WAA

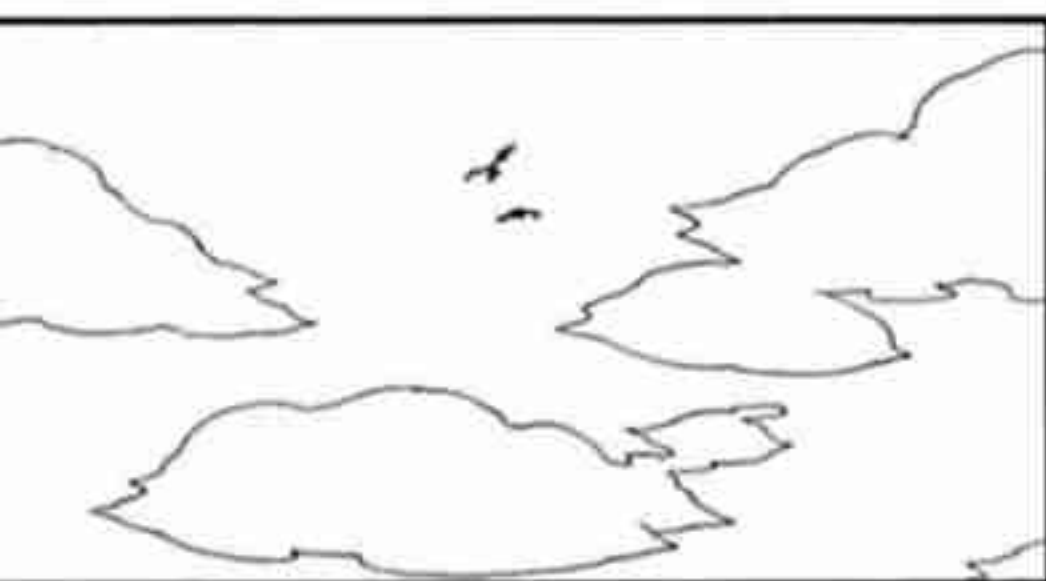
ARGH!

M

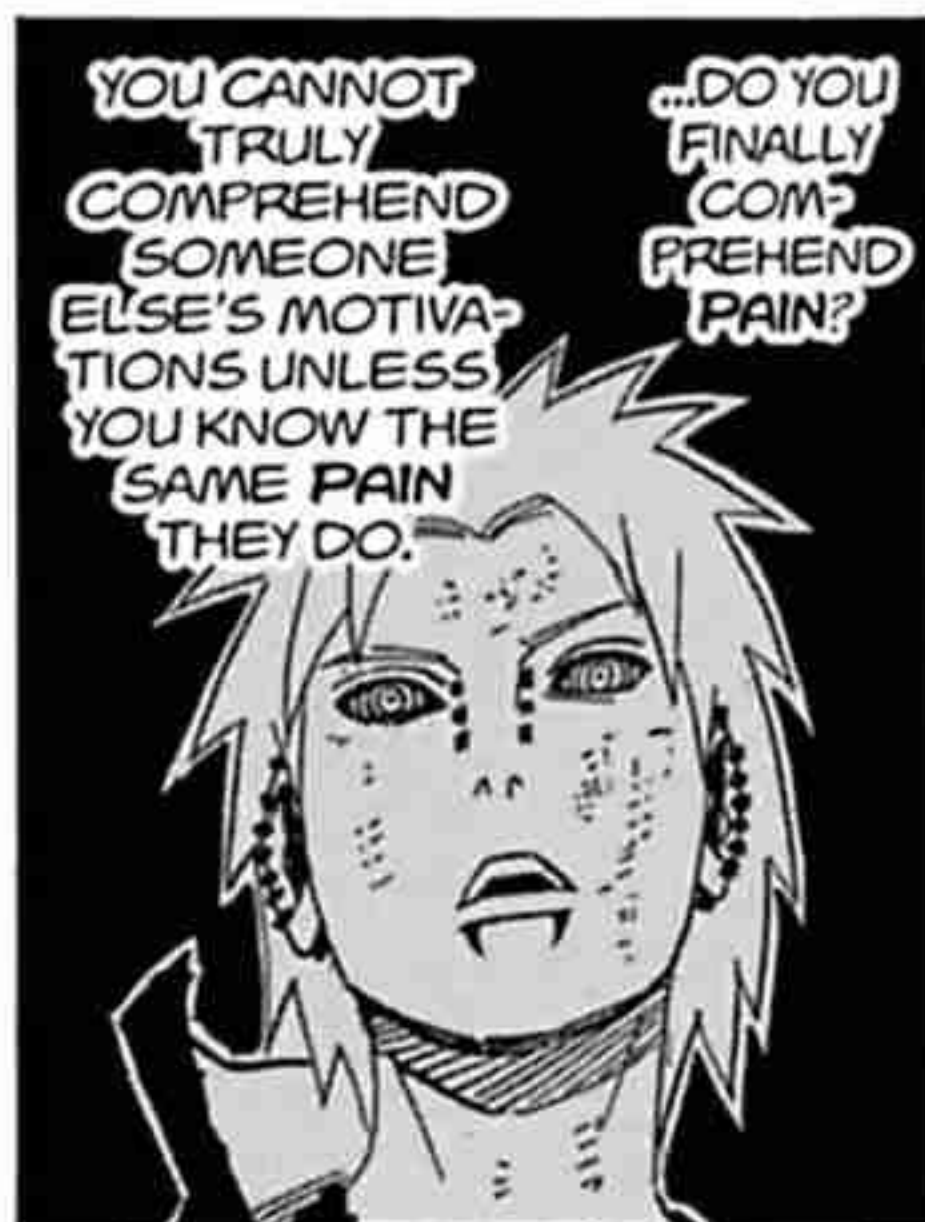
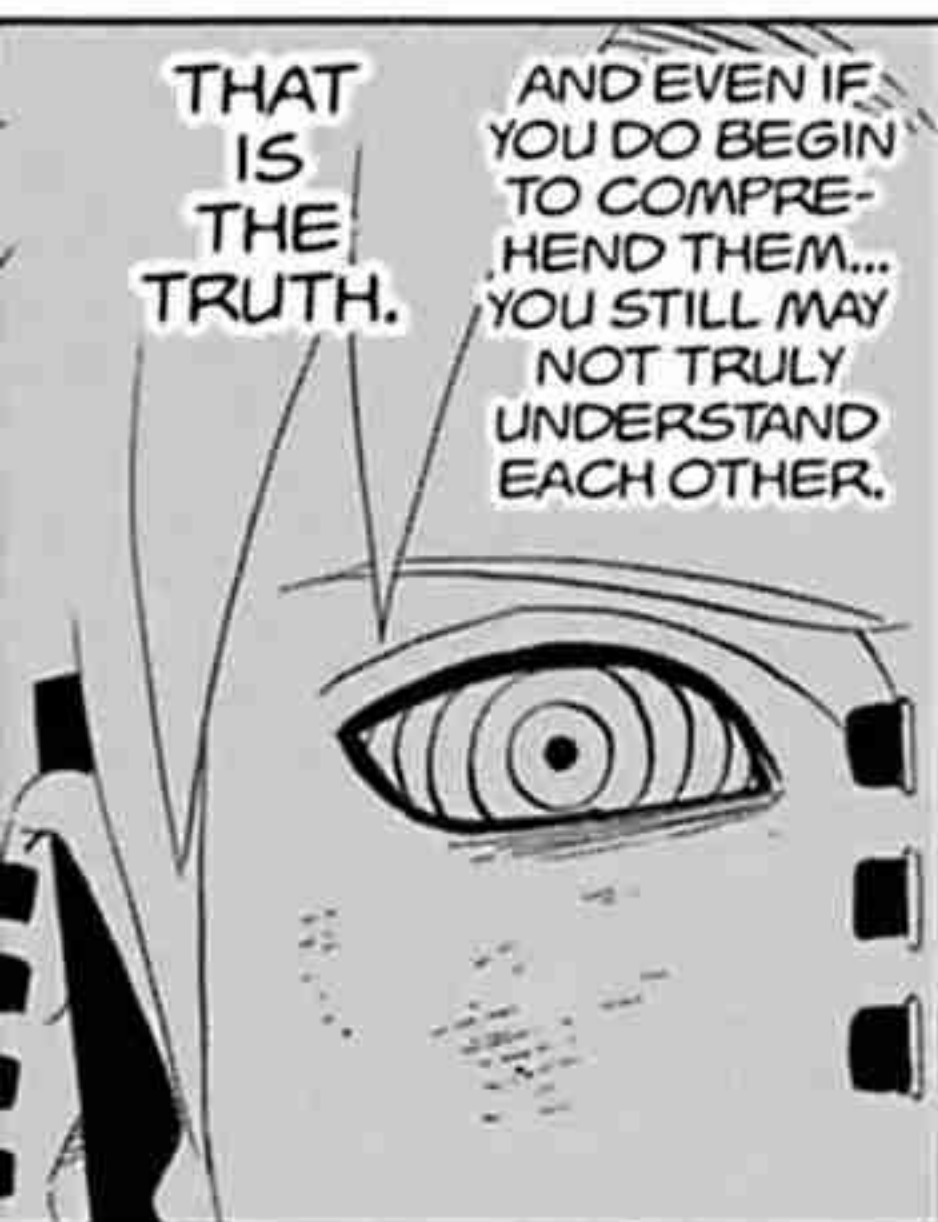
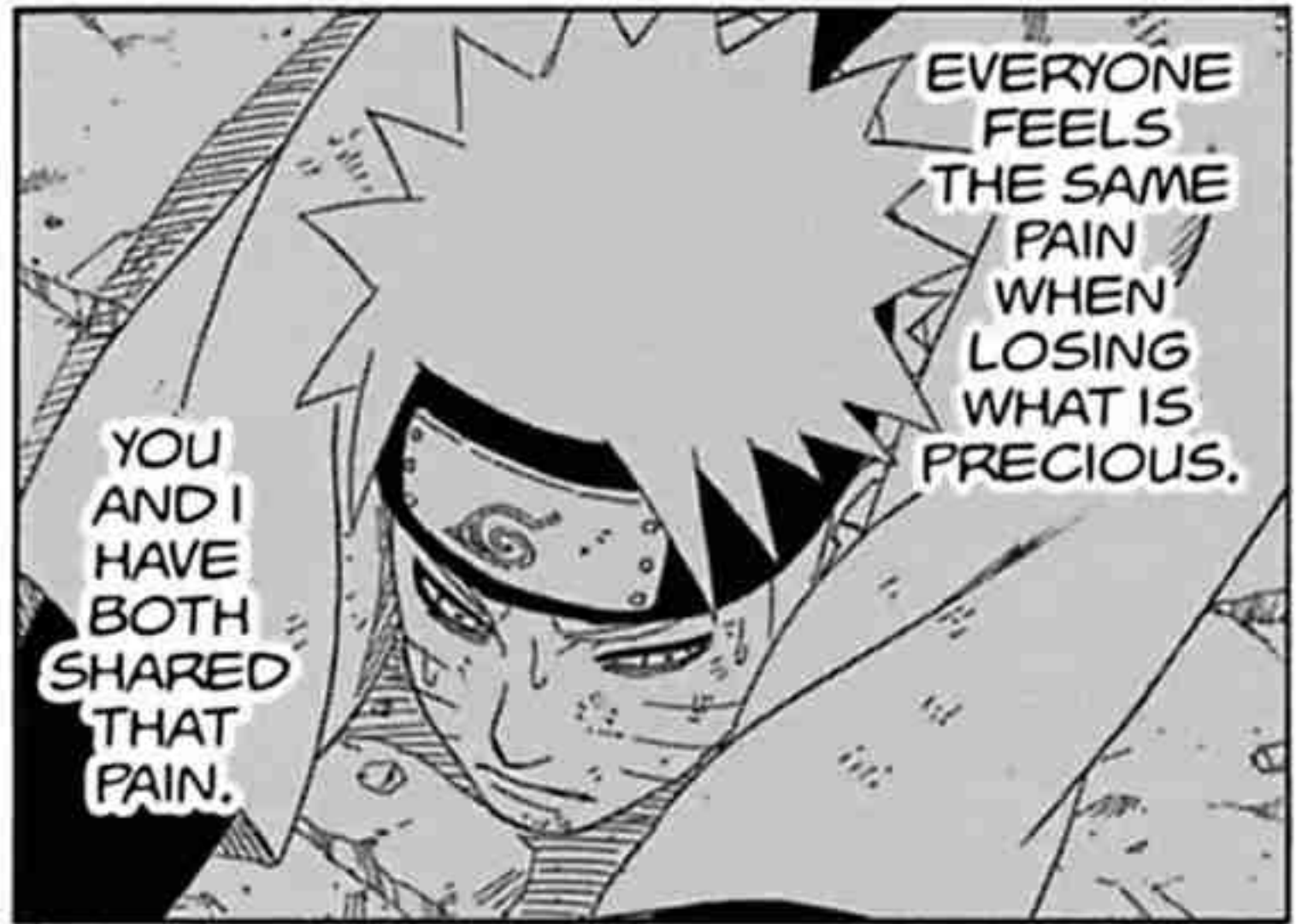
UGH!

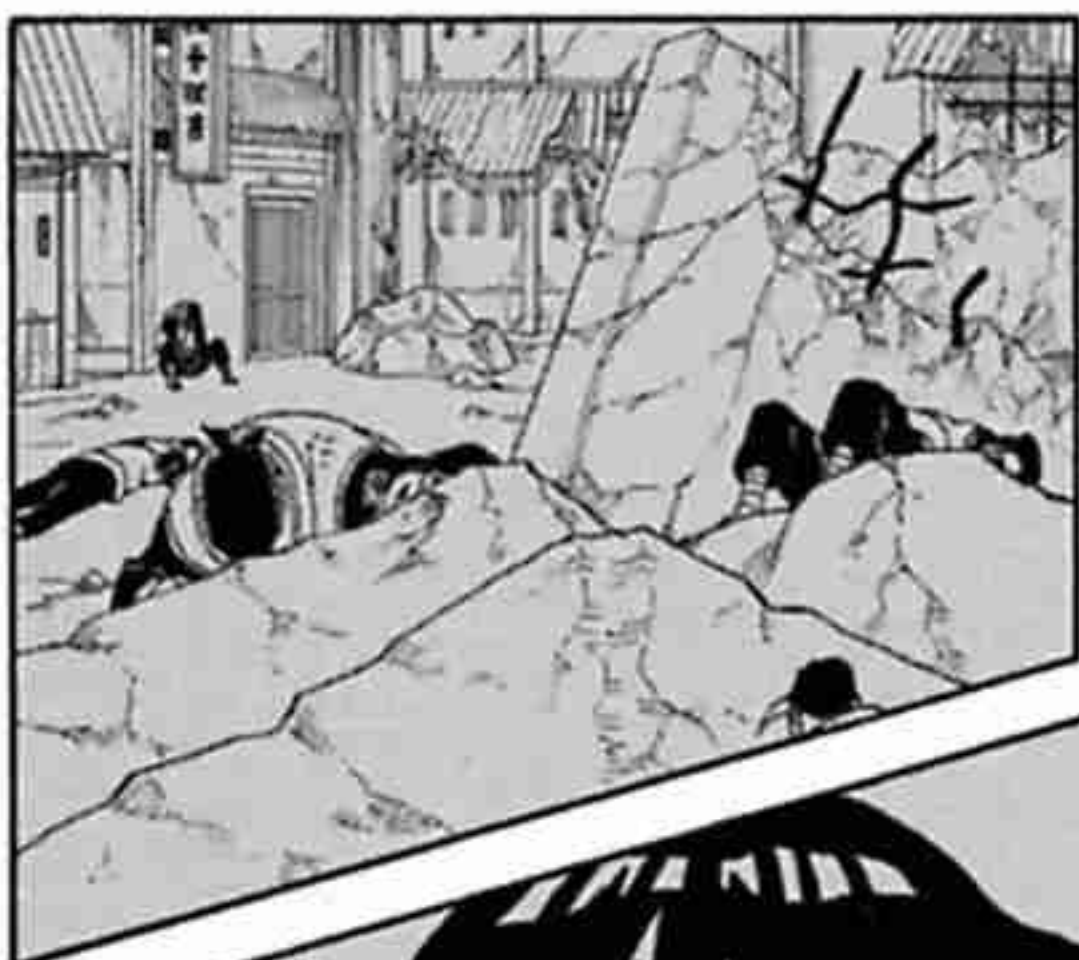
WHUMP

RRRRRRRR





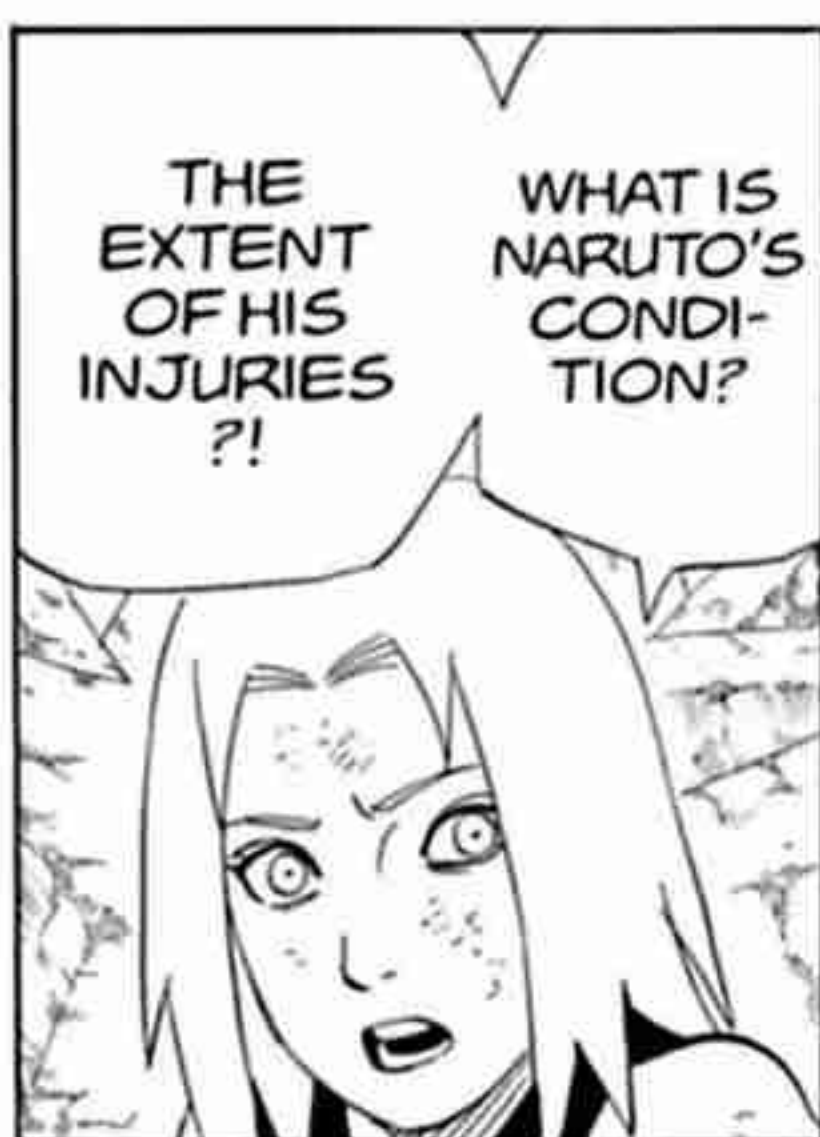








HE'S
FATIGUED...
BUT
OTHERWISE
OKAY.



THE
EXTENT
OF HIS
INJURIES
?!

WHAT IS
NARUTO'S
CONDI-
TION?



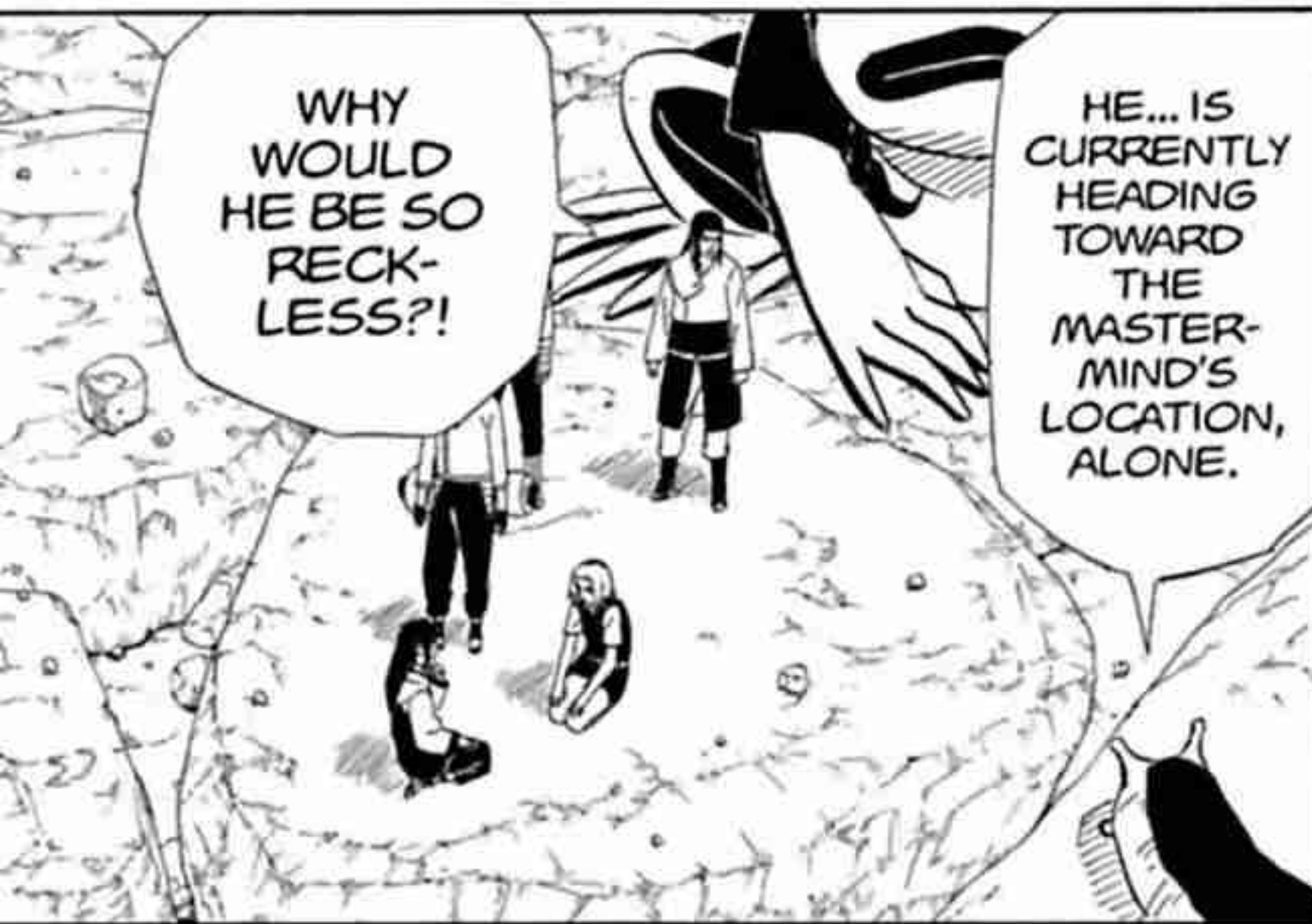
LEAVE
IT TO
NARUTO!



I'M SO
GLAD...
NARUTO
...!



PHEW
...









WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN
?!



!

...



IT'S
HARD
TO
EXPLAIN
...



YEAH...
I FOUND
HIM WHILE
I WAS IN
SAGE
MODE.

YOU
KNOW THE
WHERE-
ABOUTS OF
THE PAIN
MASTER?!



IN ANY CASE,
I'M ON MY
WAY TO THE
MASTER-
MIND'S
PLACE.

PLEASE
DON'T COME
WITH ME...
I WANT TO
GO ON
ALONE.



THERE'S
SOME-
THING I
WANT TO
CHECK
OUT...



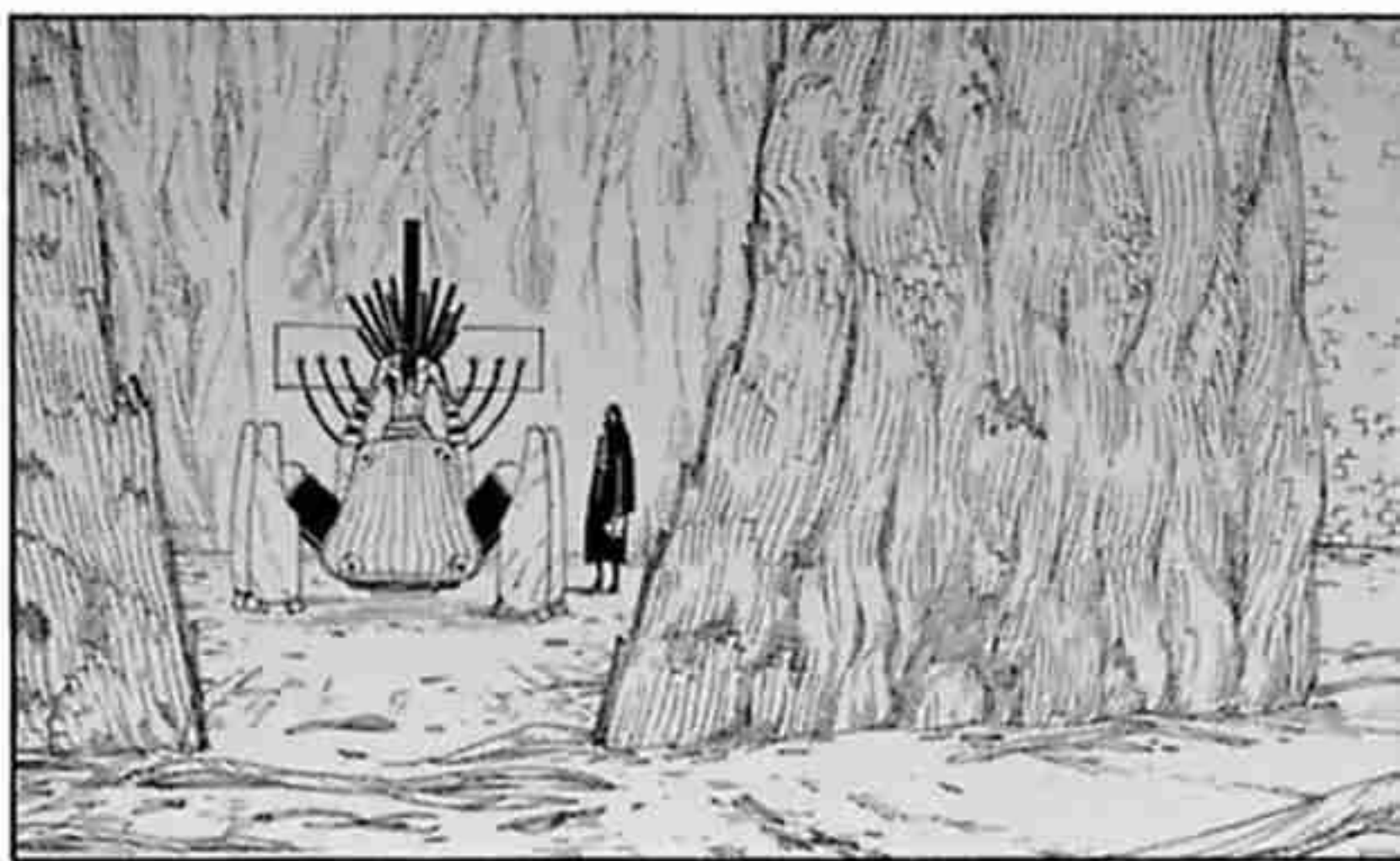
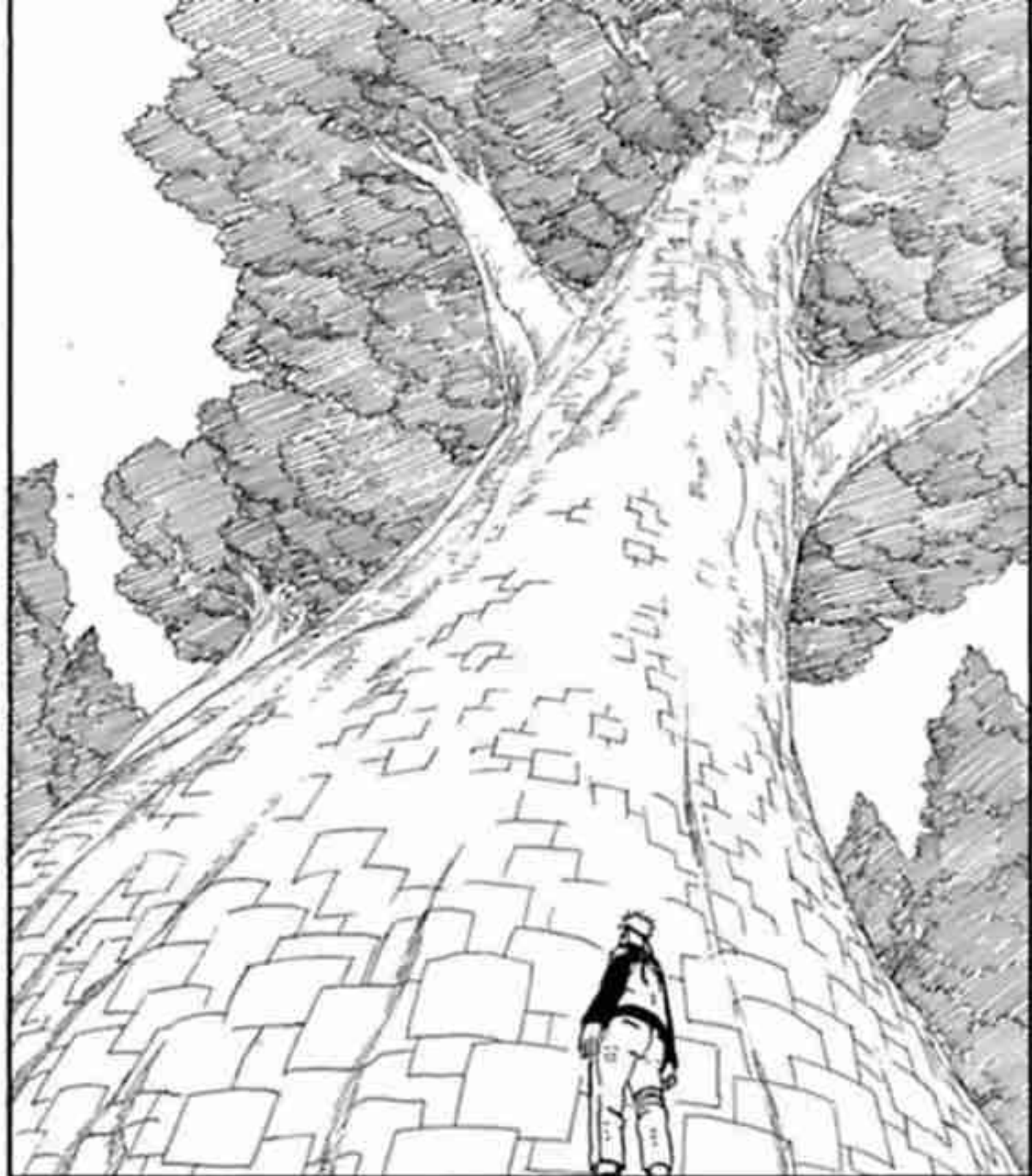
BUT WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
YOU WANT
TO GO ON
ALONE?!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON?!





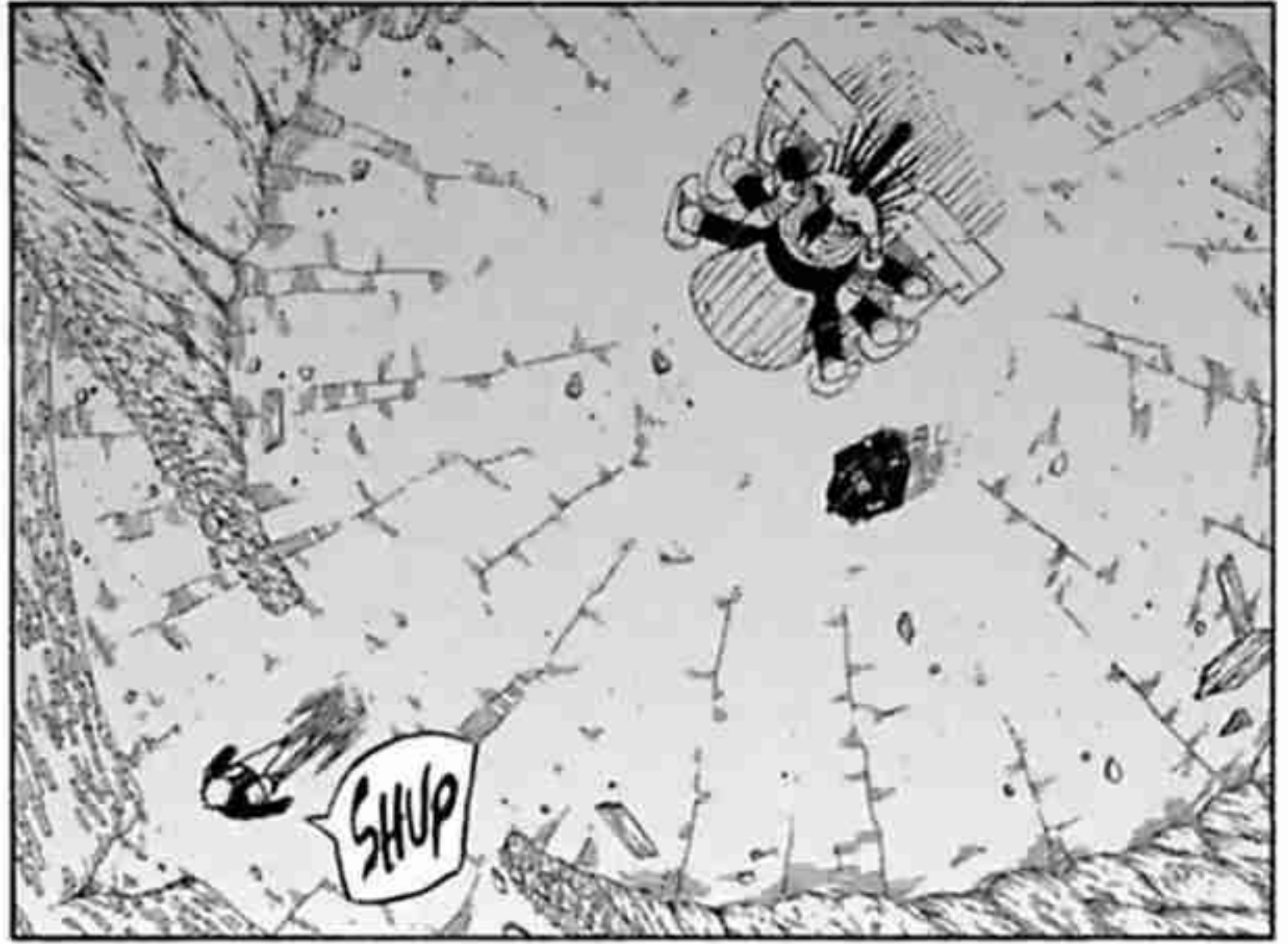






NARUTO

Number 444: The Response





...AND A
VICIOUS
CYCLE OF
HATRED
WILL BE
SET IN
MOTION.



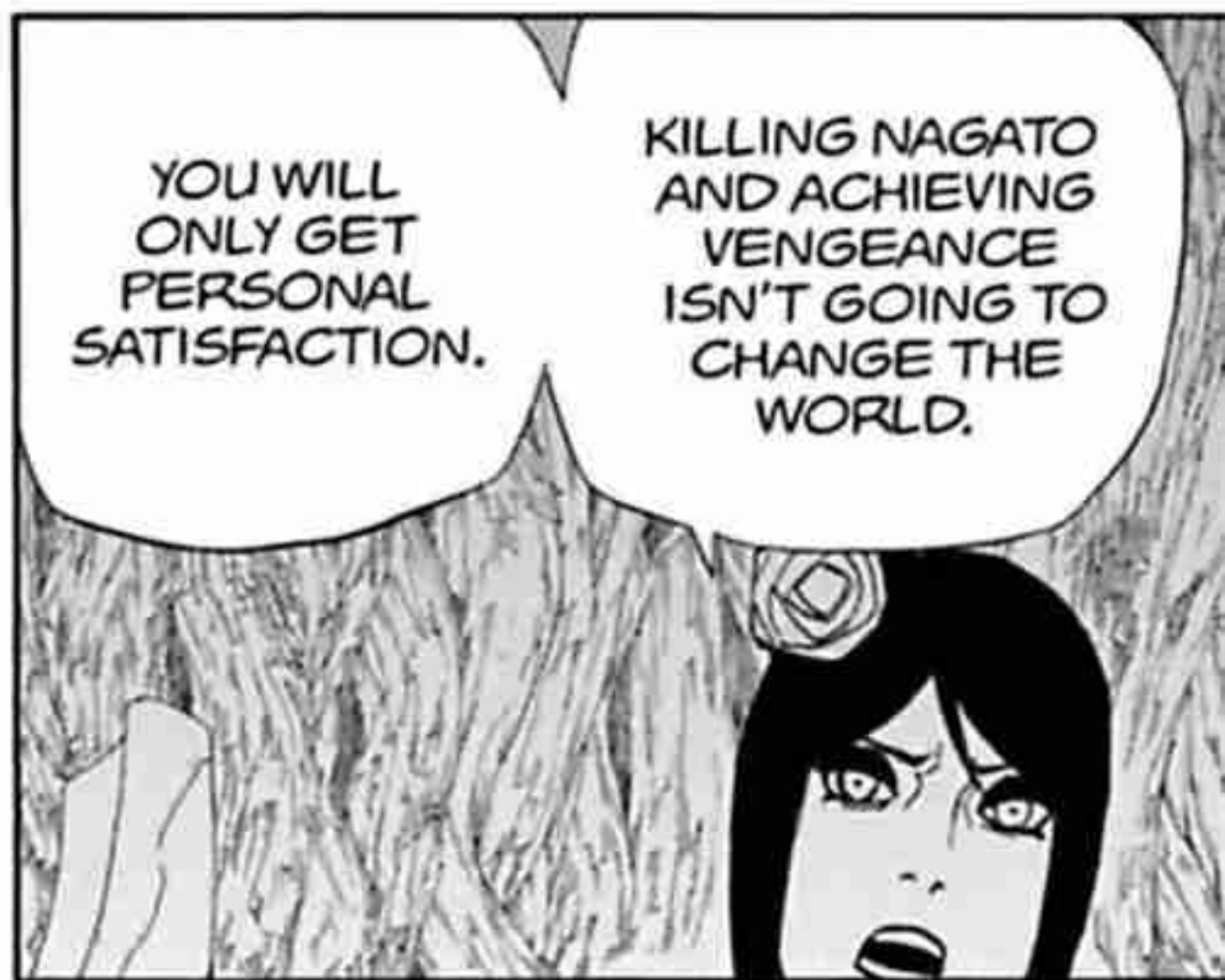
YOU'RE
FACING
THE
OBJECT
OF YOUR
VENDETTA
...

DO
YOU
HATE
ME?

DO YOU
WISH TO
EXACT
REVENGE?



BUT
YOU SEE...
THAT'S
WHY I
FORMED
THE
AKATSUKI,
TO BREAK
THE CYCLE
OF
HATRED.



YOU WILL
ONLY GET
PERSONAL
SATISFACTION.

KILLING NAGATO
AND ACHIEVING
VENGEANCE
ISN'T GOING TO
CHANGE THE
WORLD.



...THE
MONSTER
KNOWN
AS HATE
WILL
ALWAYS
GIVE
BIRTH
TO NEW
PAINS.

THUS,
SO
LONG
AS WE
HAVE
SHINOBI
CULTURE
...



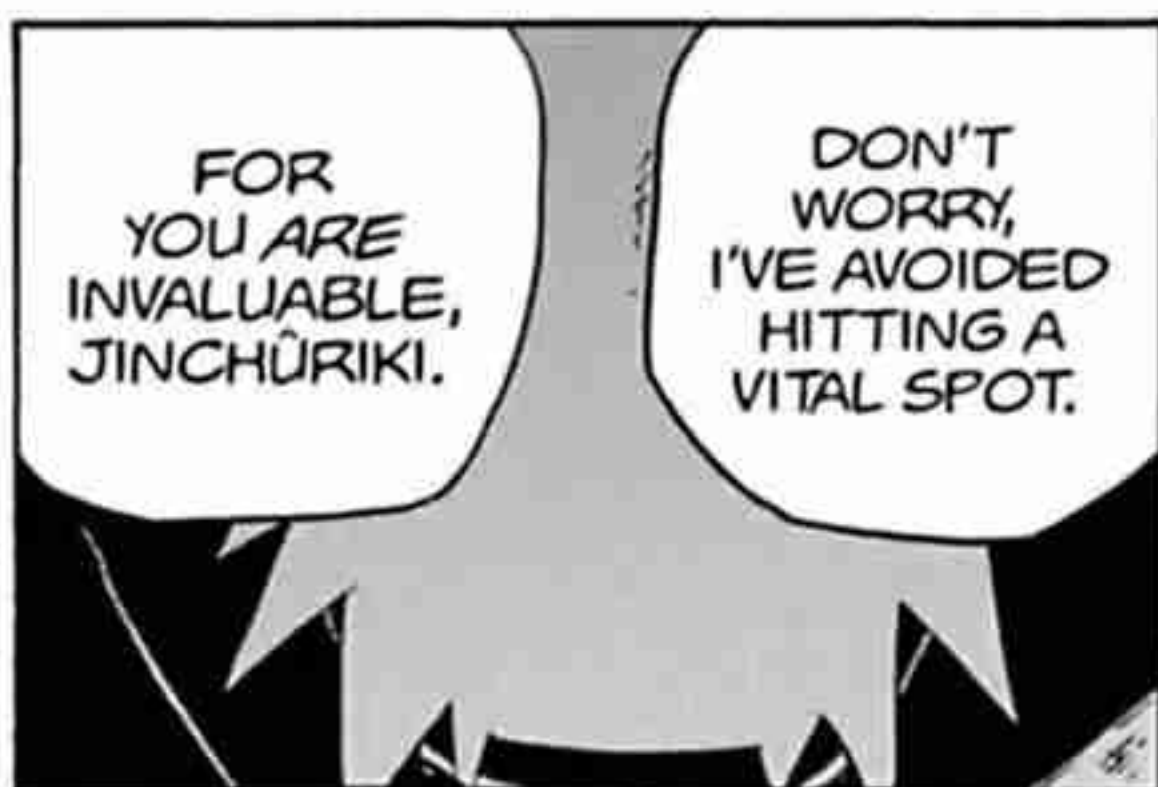
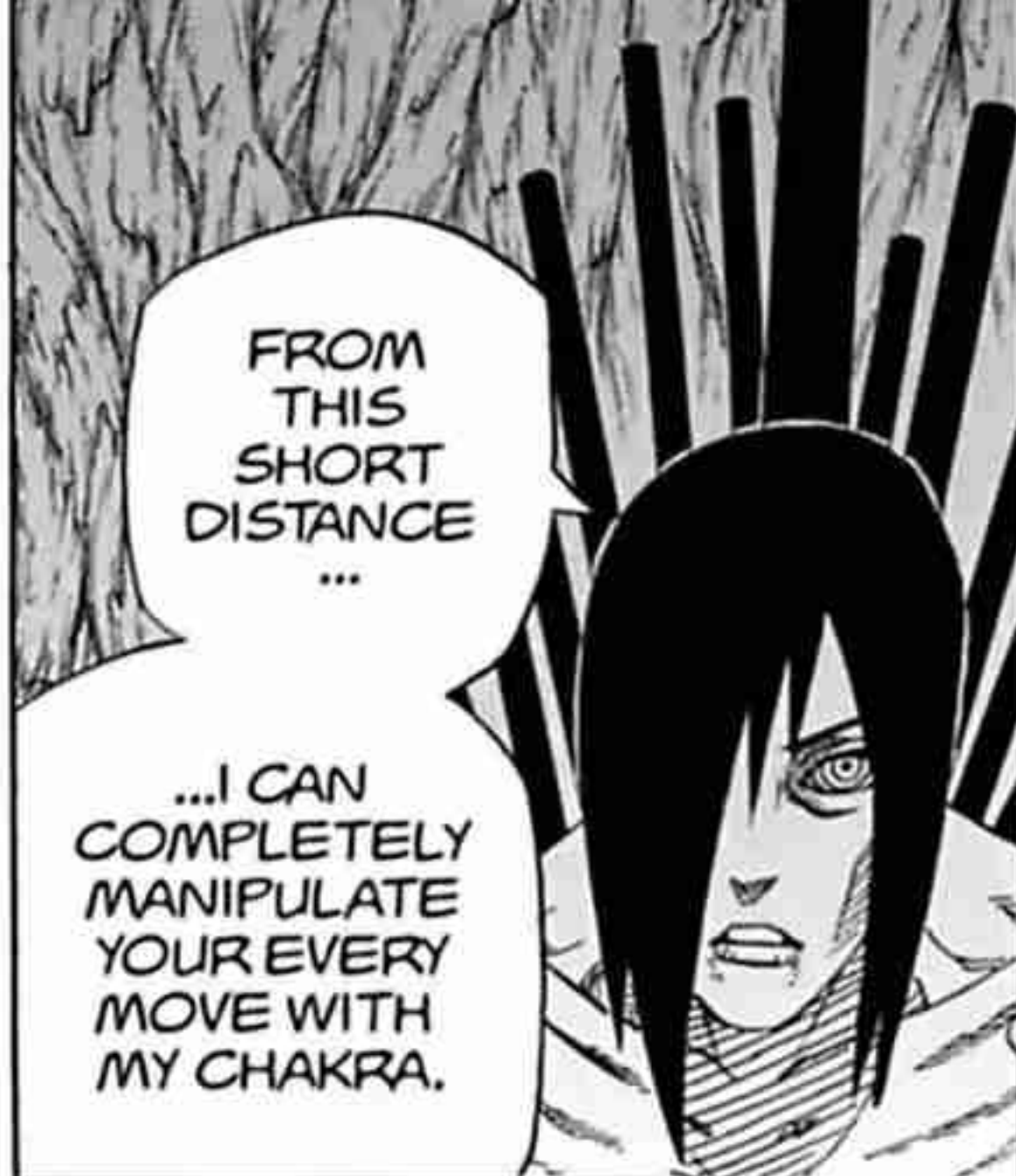
...

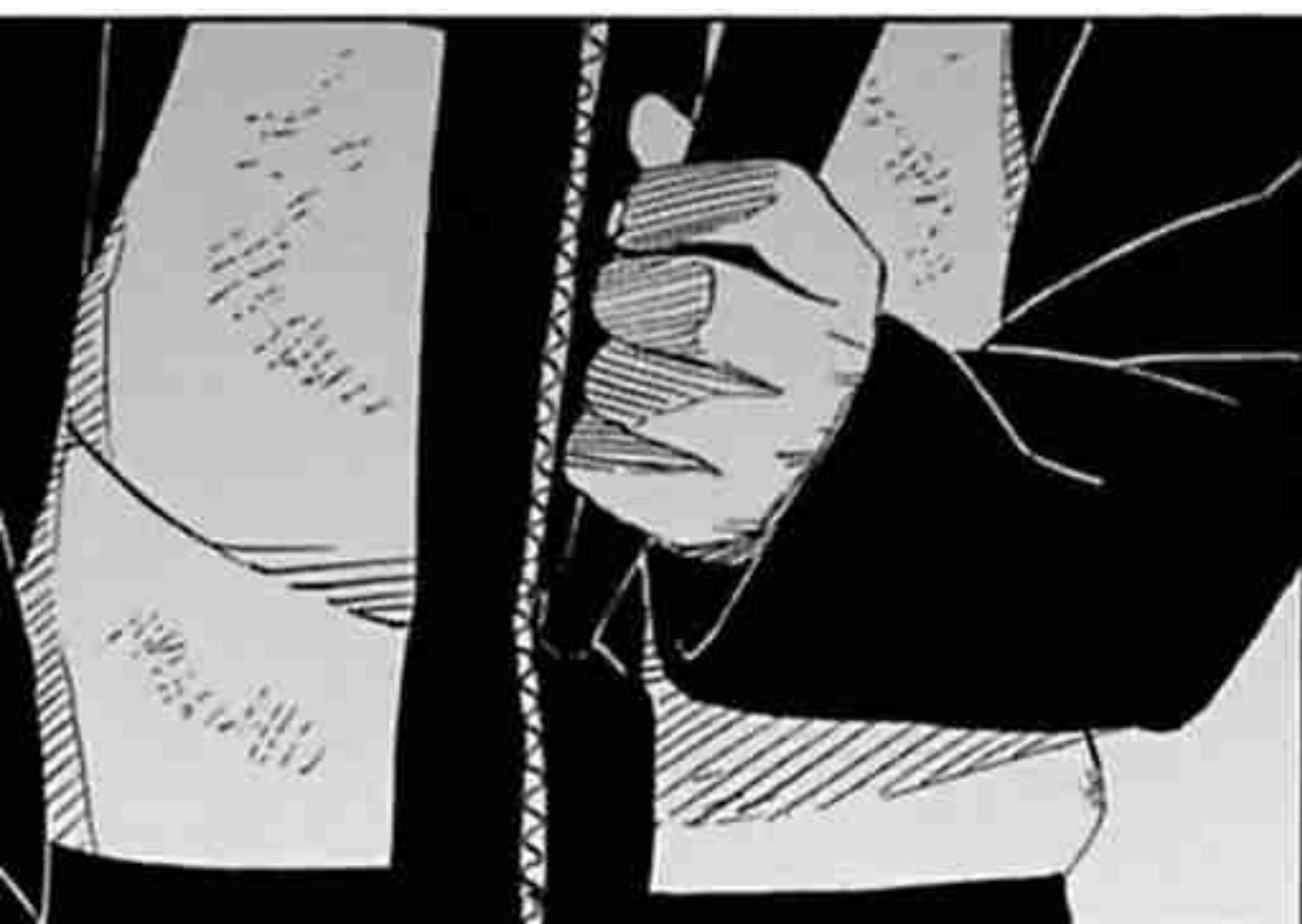
YOUR
PROPER
ROLE IS TO
SACRIFICE
YOURSELF TO
ME AND TO
THE PEACE
I SHALL
CONSTRUCT.

THERE
IS NOTH-
ING YOU,
WHO HAVE
NO
ANSWERS,
CAN EVER
DO.

K
R
A
K

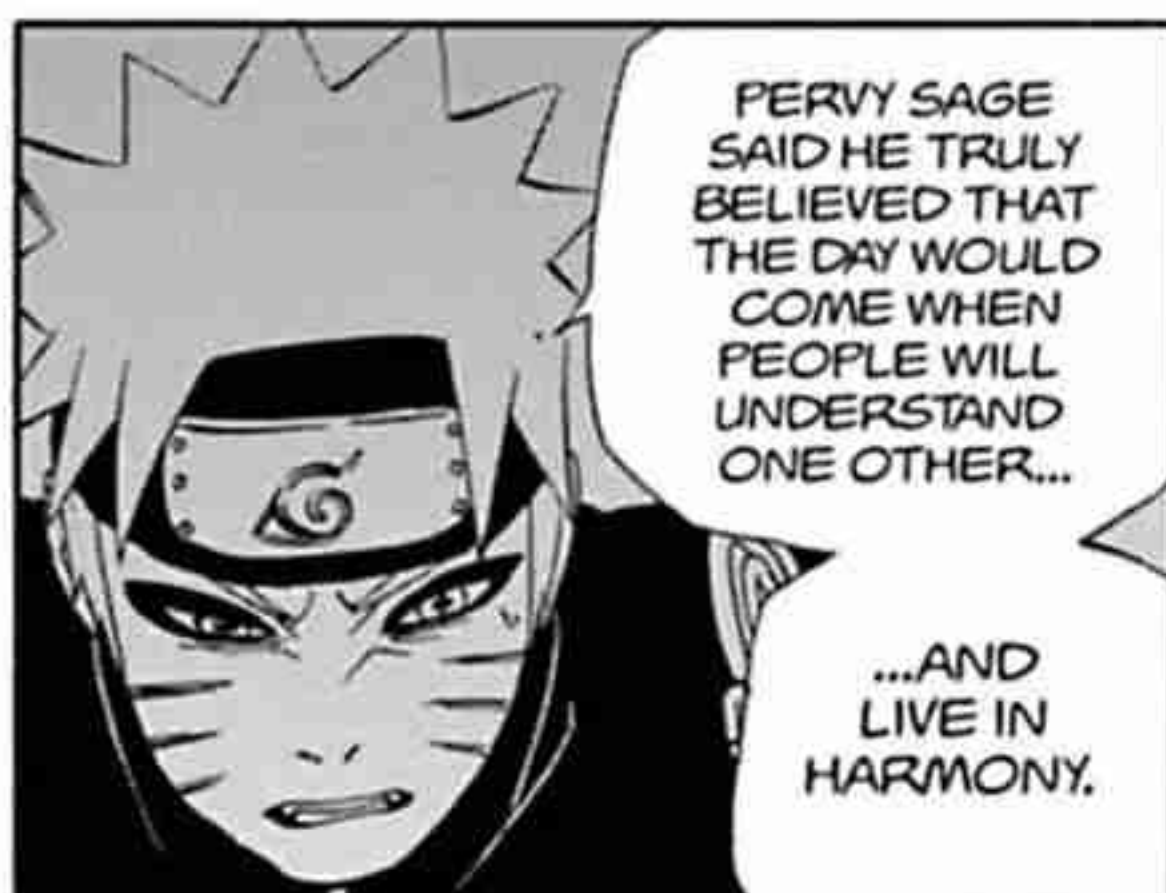




















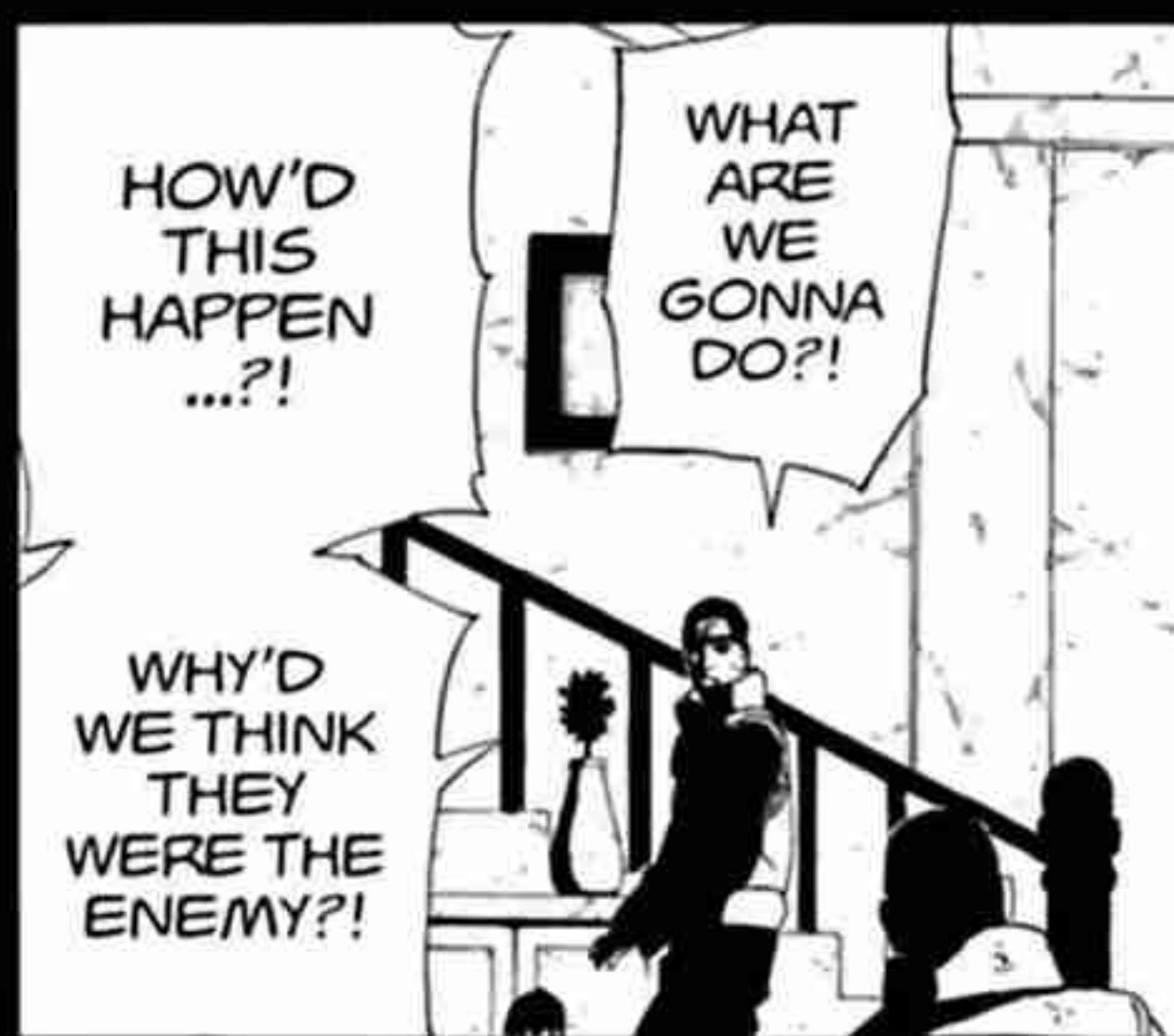


WHO'S
THERE
?!

Stop





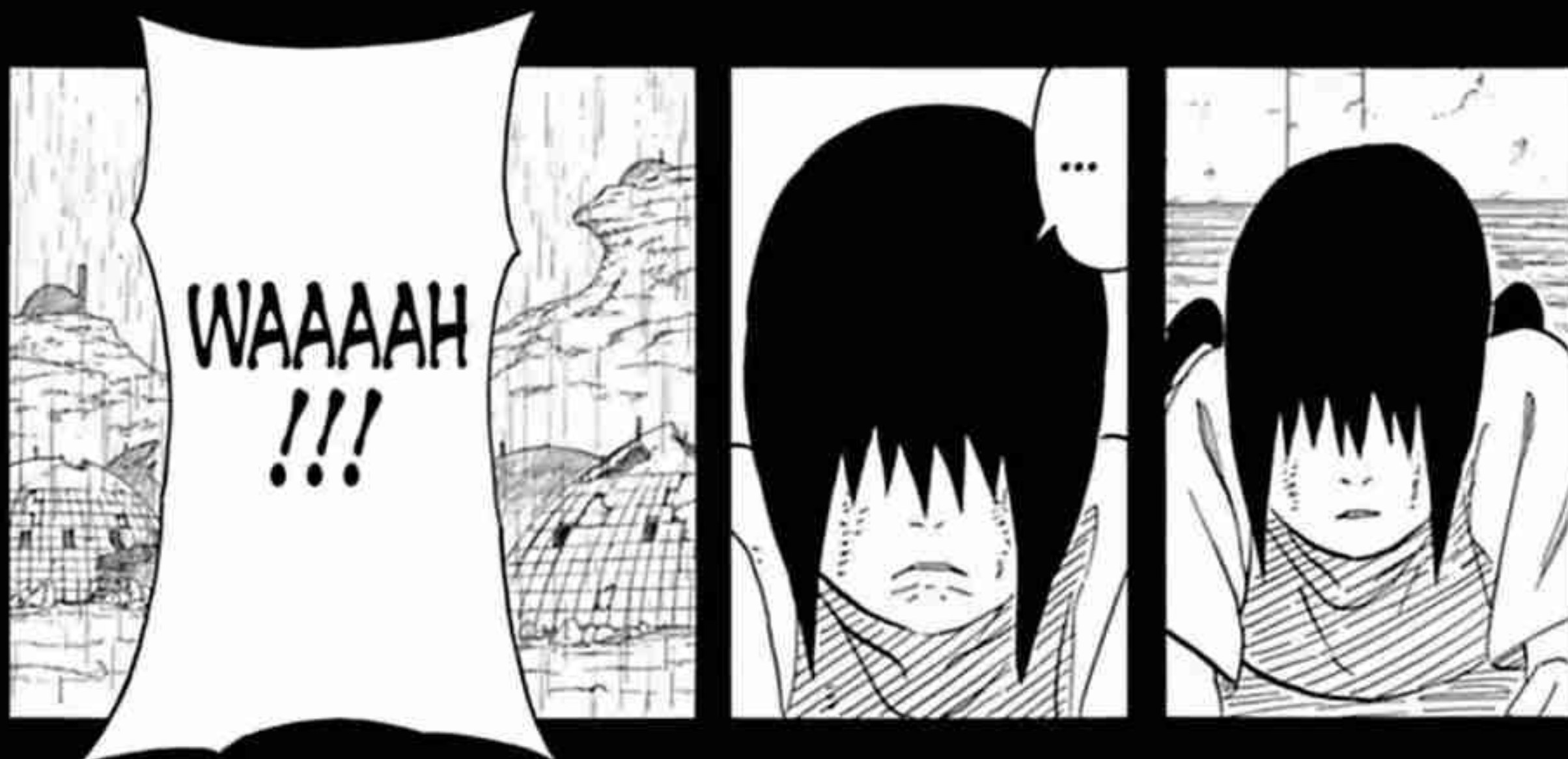






Number 445: Top of the World







...I WAS
THE ONE
WHO
KILLED
THOSE
TWO
KONOHA
SHINOBI.

IT WAS
ONLY
MUCH
LATER I
REAL-
IZED...



THAT PAIN
TRANS-
FORMED
INTO HATE.
BUT IT ALSO
BROUGHT
MY
POWERS
INTO
BLOOM.

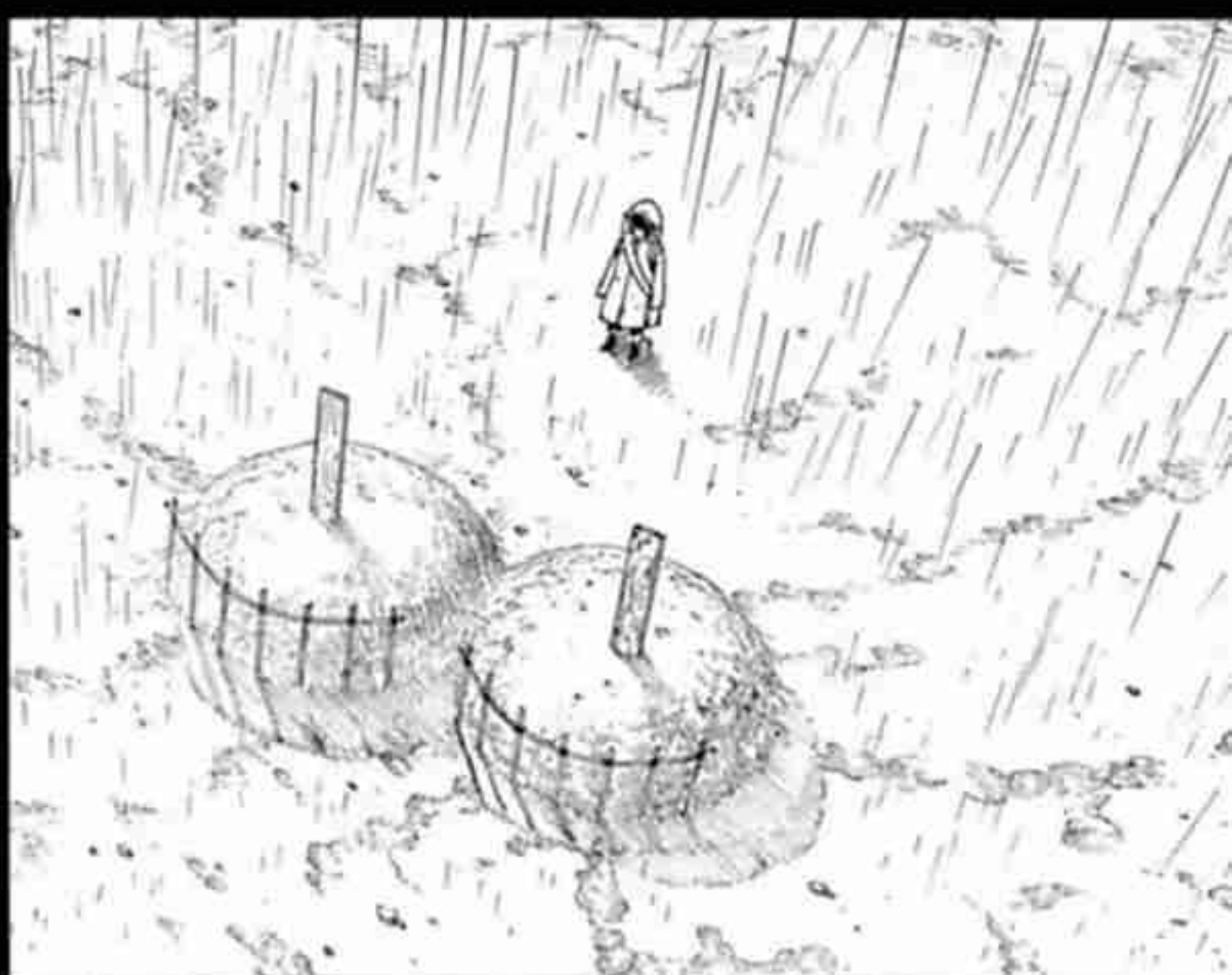


Swooooo



...FATHER...
MOTHER...

GOOD-
BYE...







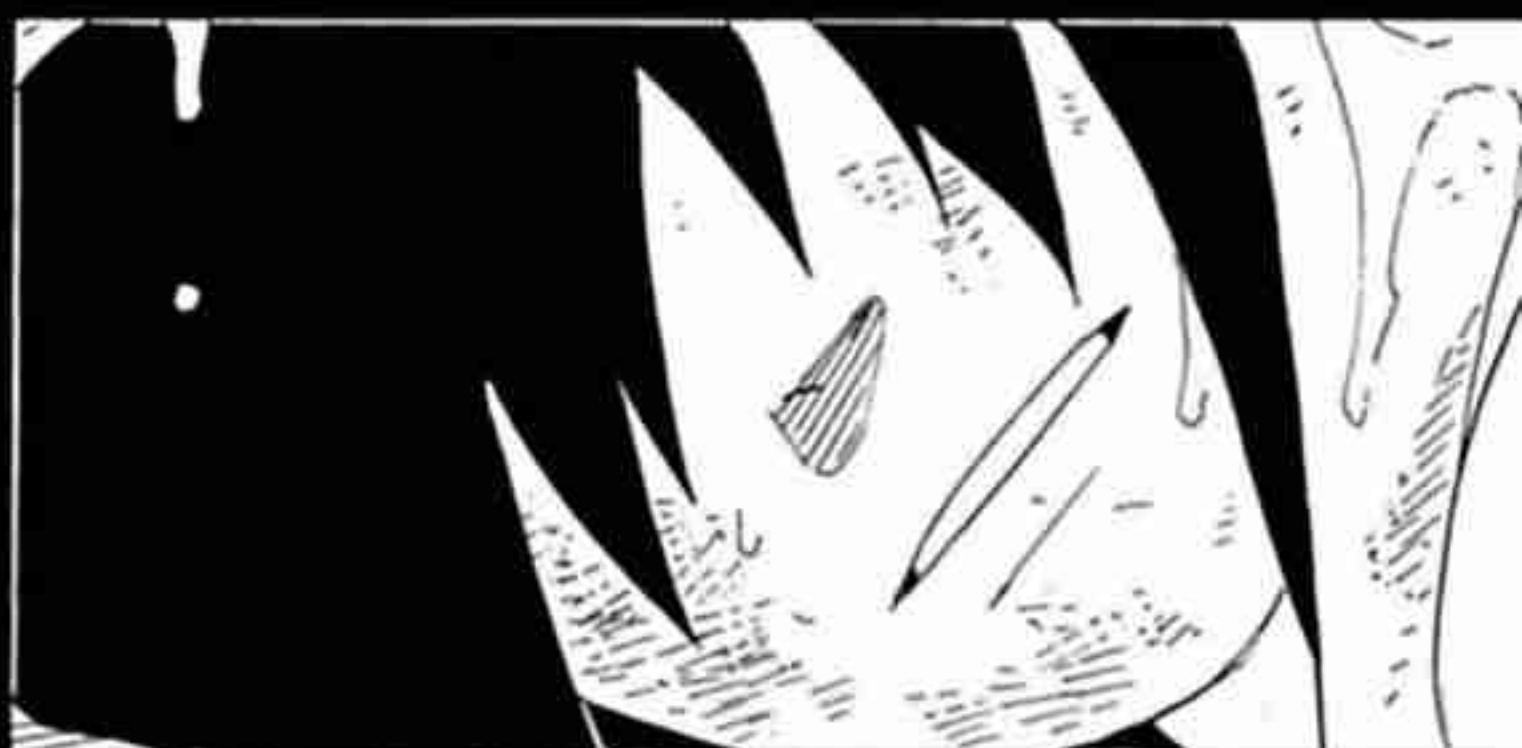
KLOMP

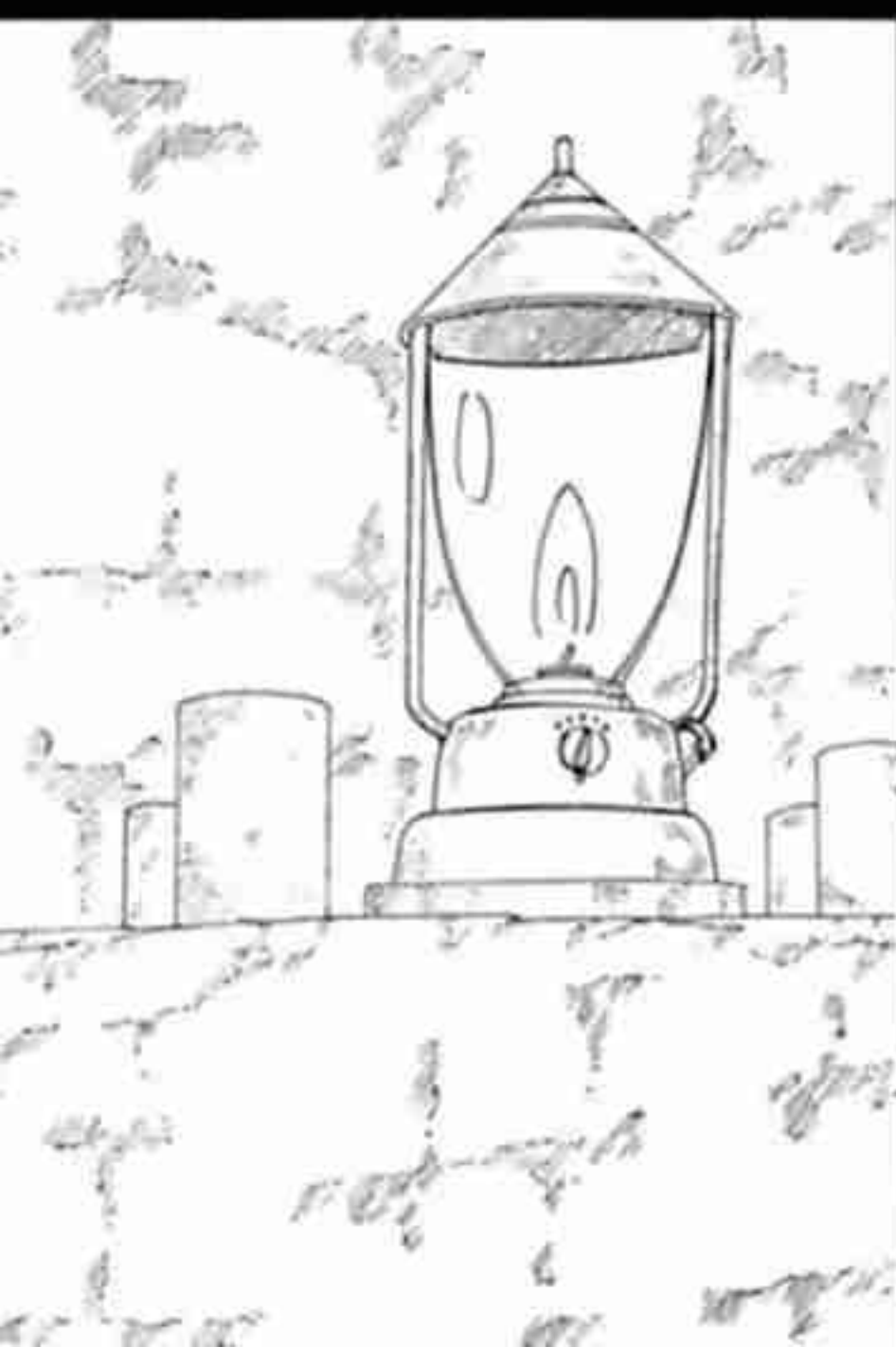
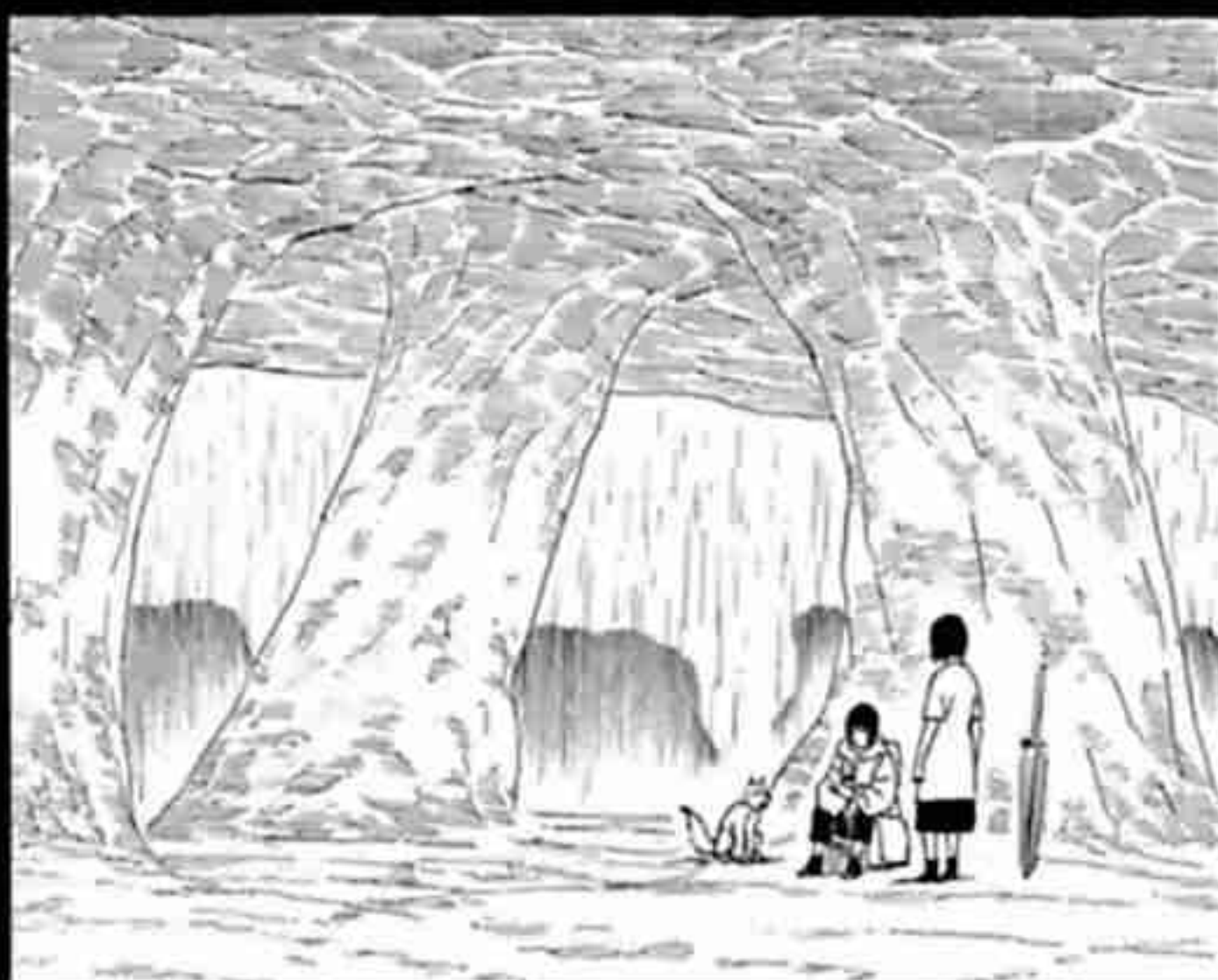
I'M
REALLY
SORRY.
MAYBE
ASK
SOMEONE
ELSE.

YOU
KNOW HOW
THESE
TIMES ARE.
WE BARELY
HAVE
ENOUGH
FOR
OURSELVES
...

SORRY...
I'VE GOT
NOTHING
FOR YOU.









THEY WERE
ALSO WAR
ORPHANS.
BUT THEY
WERE STRONG,
FIGHTING
DESPERATELY
TO STAY ALIVE.

I JOINED
THEM.

THAT'S
HOW
I MET
KONAN
HERE...

...AND
A BOY
NAMED
YAHIKO.

NO,
CHIBI'S
THE
DOG...

WEIRD
NAME
...

...CHIBI.

SCRAM!

FSH...

ANY BIT
WOULD
HELP...

COULD
YOU
PLEASE
GIVE US
SOME
ALMS?

BUT EVEN
UNDER
SUCH HARSH
CIRCUM-
STANCES,
YAHIKO
NEVER
ABANDONED
HOPE.

THERE WAS
NO SYSTEM
FOR HELPING
ORPHANS IN
THAT CHAOS-
RIDDEN SMALL
NATION.

THIEVERY
WAS THE
ONLY WAY
FOR
ORPHANS
TO
SURVIVE.

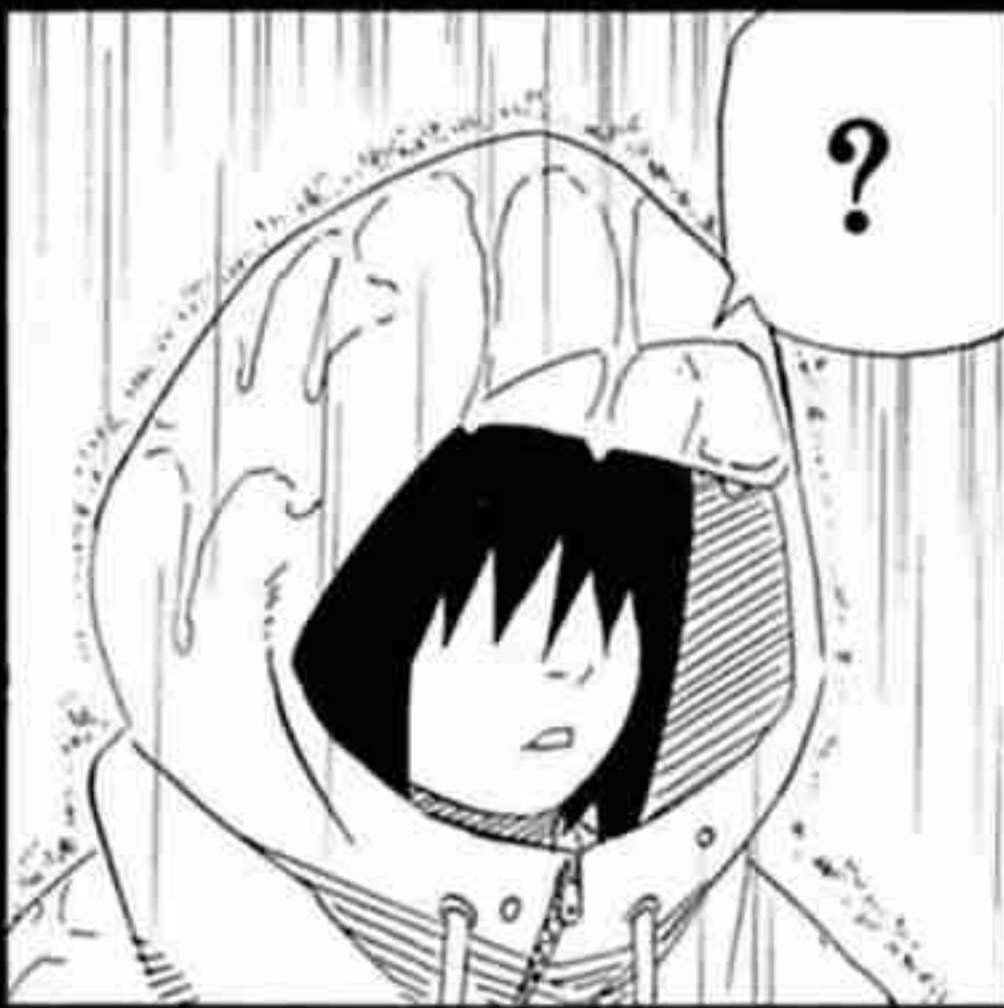
WE
STOLE.



DREAMS
...?



NAGATO,
DO YOU
HAVE
DREAMS?



?



I'VE GOT
DREAMS!

I'M NOT
GONNA
LIVE
IN THIS
DUMP
FOREVER.



ONCE I
RULE THE
WORLD,
WE WON'T
EVER HAVE
TO SUFFER
AGAIN!

EX-
ACTLY
!!

WORLD...
DOMI-
NATION
...?

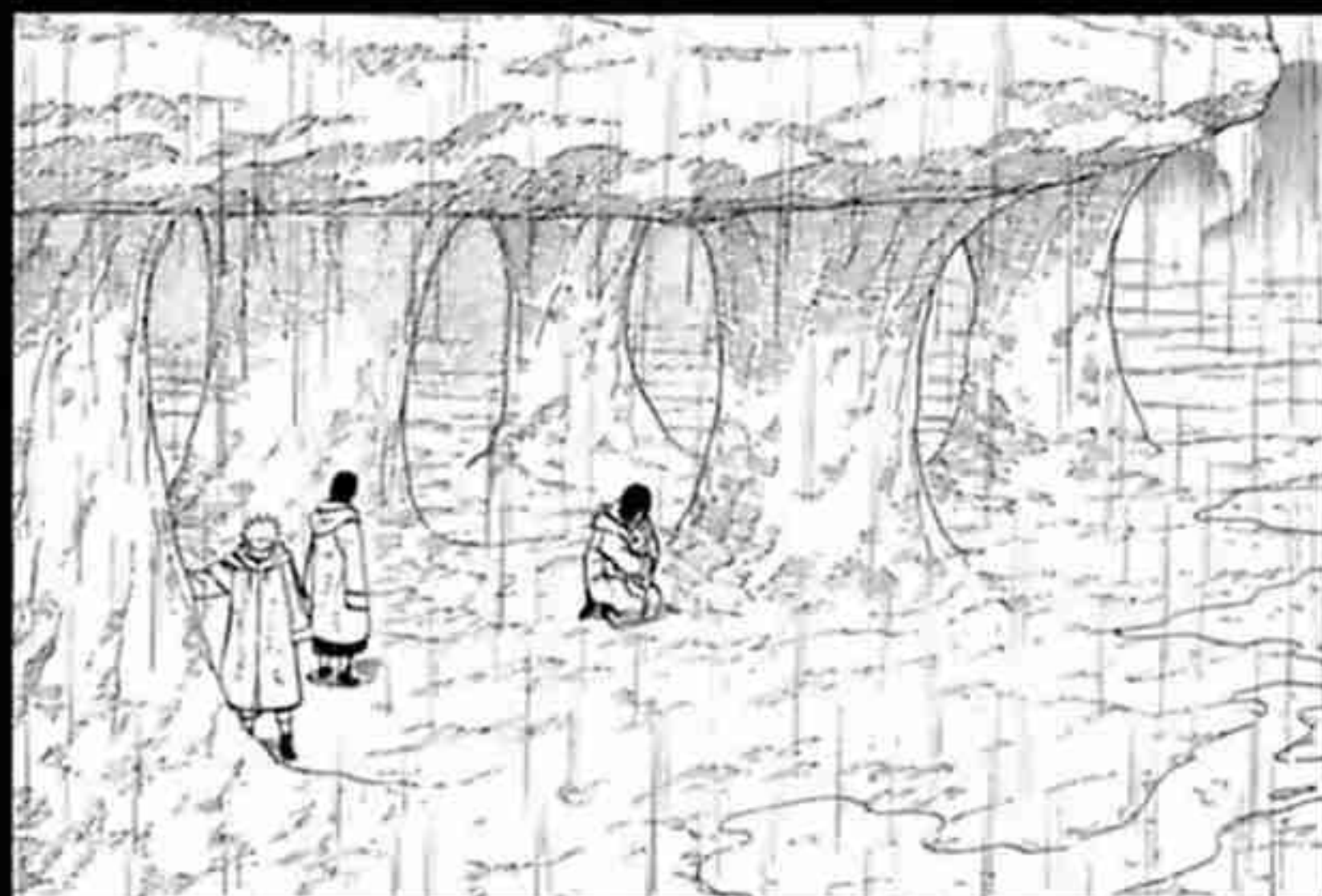


WORLD
DOMI-
NATION
!!



















BUT I
COULDN'T
TRULY
ACCEPT
A KONOHA
SHINOBI.



...

YOU...
OUGHT
TO KNOW
WHAT
THAT'S
LIKE.







WHEN
YAHIKO WAS
ALMOST
KILLED,
I STRUCK
OUT AND
KILLED THAT
SHINOBI
INSTEAD.

A
RENEGADE
SHINOBI
ATTACKED
US.



THE
OCULAR
JUTSU
OF THE
RINNEGAN.

IT
SEEMS
I HAD A
SPECIAL
POWER
INSIDE
ME.

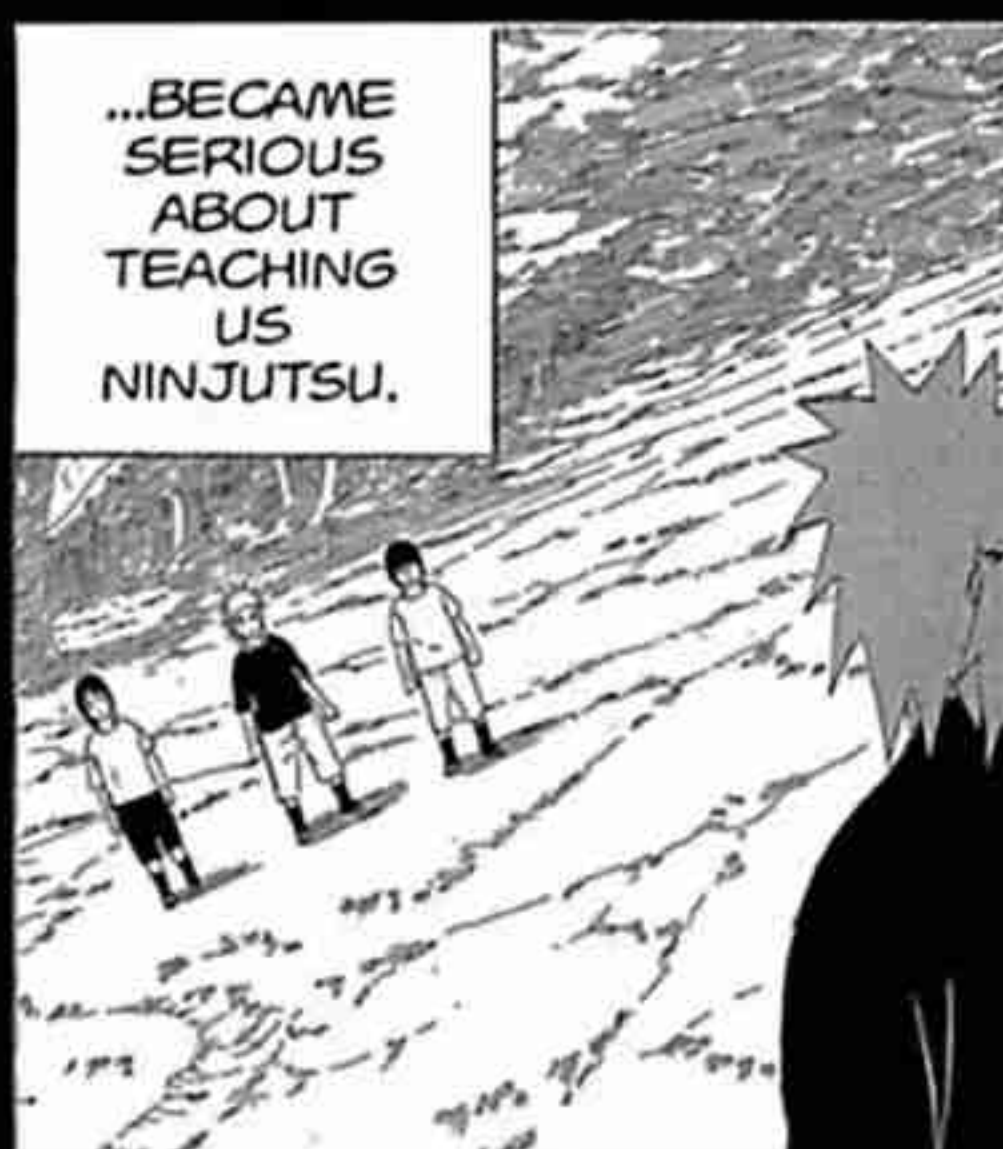


COM-
PLETELY
INVOLUN-
TARILY...



...BUT IN
TERMS OF ME
SPECIFICALLY,
I FEEL HE
WANTED TO
HELP ME
CONTROL
THE POWER
OF THE
RINNEGAN.

MASTER
SAID
HE JUST
WANTED
US TO BE
ABLE TO
PROTECT
OUR-
SELVES...



...BECAME
SERIOUS
ABOUT
TEACHING
US
NINJUTSU.

AFTER
THAT
INCIDENT,
EVEN
MASTER
JIRAIYA,
WHO AT
FIRST
HADN'T
INTENDED
TO...



BUT
MASTER
RESCUED
ME FROM
THAT
DARK
PLACE.



I CONVINCED
MYSELF I
HAD DONE
SOMETHING
WRONG AND
BECAME
CONSUMED
WITH GUILT.

BUT I
FEARED
MY OWN
POWER.

HATE HAD
CAUSED
ME TO GO
BERSERK.



YOU
PROTECTED
YOUR FRIEND...
SO I BELIEVE
WHAT YOU
DID WAS THE
RIGHT THING.

BUT
THANKS
TO YOU,
YAHIKO IS
ALIVE.



YOU KNOW,
I'M HONESTLY
NOT SURE IF
WHAT YOU DID
WAS RIGHT
OR WRONG
EITHER.



BEFORE
I REALIZED
IT, I'D
ACKNOWLED-
GED
MASTER.



NO ONE
CAN FAULT
YOU FOR
THAT...

A PERSON
MATURES,
GROWS UP,
BECAUSE
YOU
EXPERIENCE
PAIN.

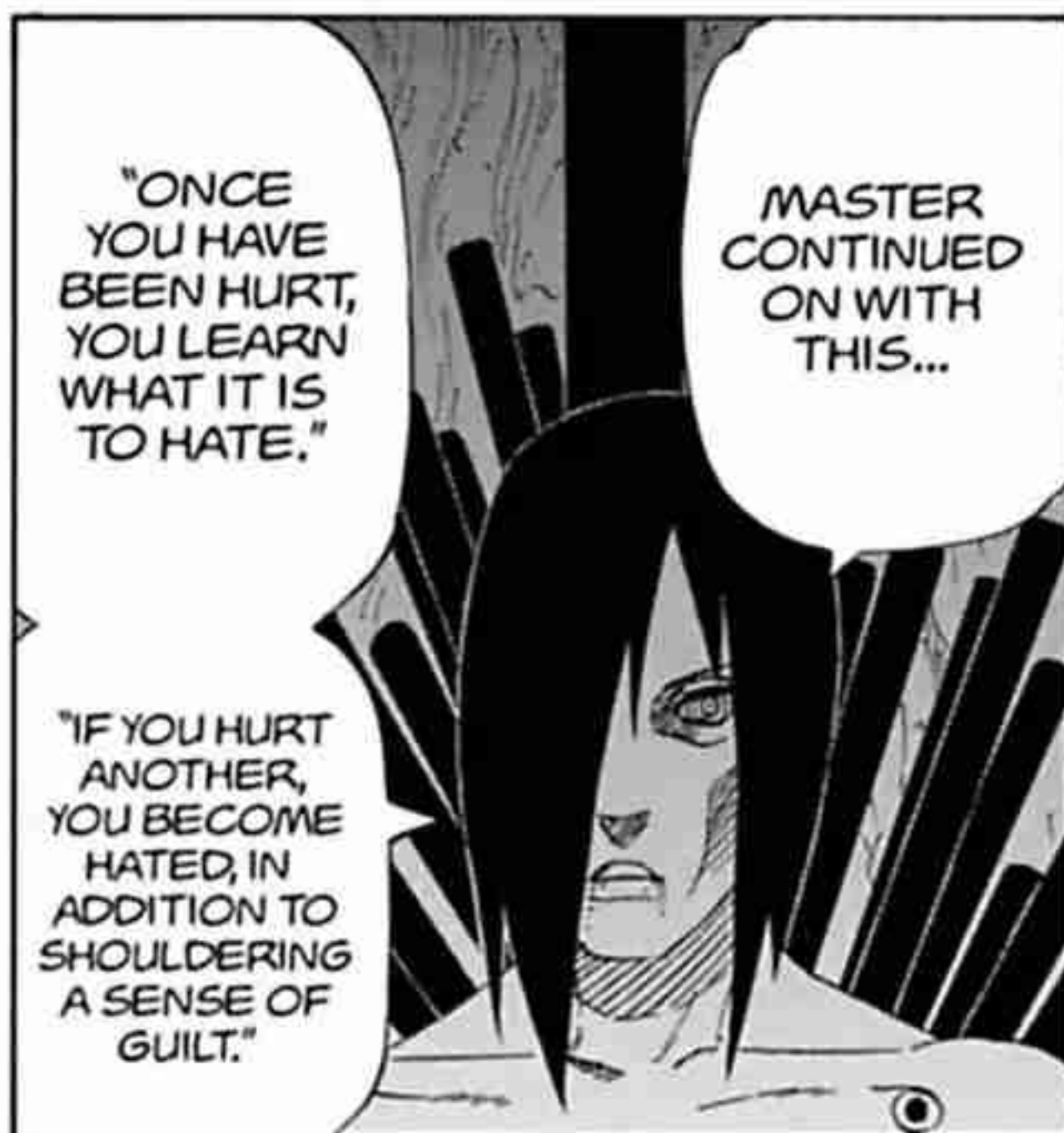
BUT IT IS
BECAUSE ONE
UNDERSTANDS
SUCH PAIN
THAT
GENEROSITY
TOWARD
OTHERS
BECOMES
SECOND
NATURE.



"ONCE
YOU HAVE
BEEN HURT,
YOU LEARN
WHAT IT IS
TO HATE."

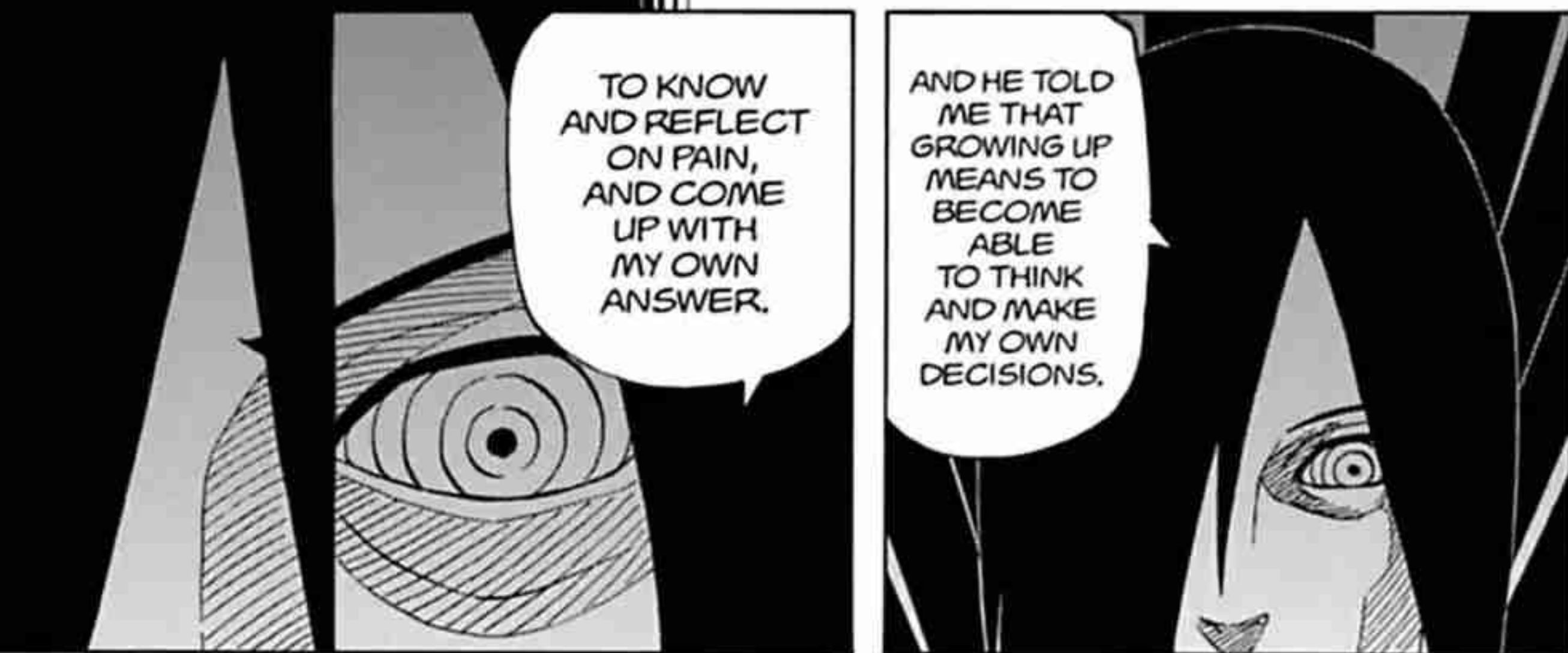
"IF YOU HURT
ANOTHER,
YOU BECOME
HATED, IN
ADDITION TO
SHOULDERING
A SENSE OF
GUILT."

MASTER
CONTINUED
ON WITH
THIS...



TO KNOW
AND REFLECT
ON PAIN,
AND COME
UP WITH
MY OWN
ANSWER.

AND HE TOLD
ME THAT
GROWING UP
MEANS TO
BECOME
ABLE
TO THINK
AND MAKE
MY OWN
DECISIONS.

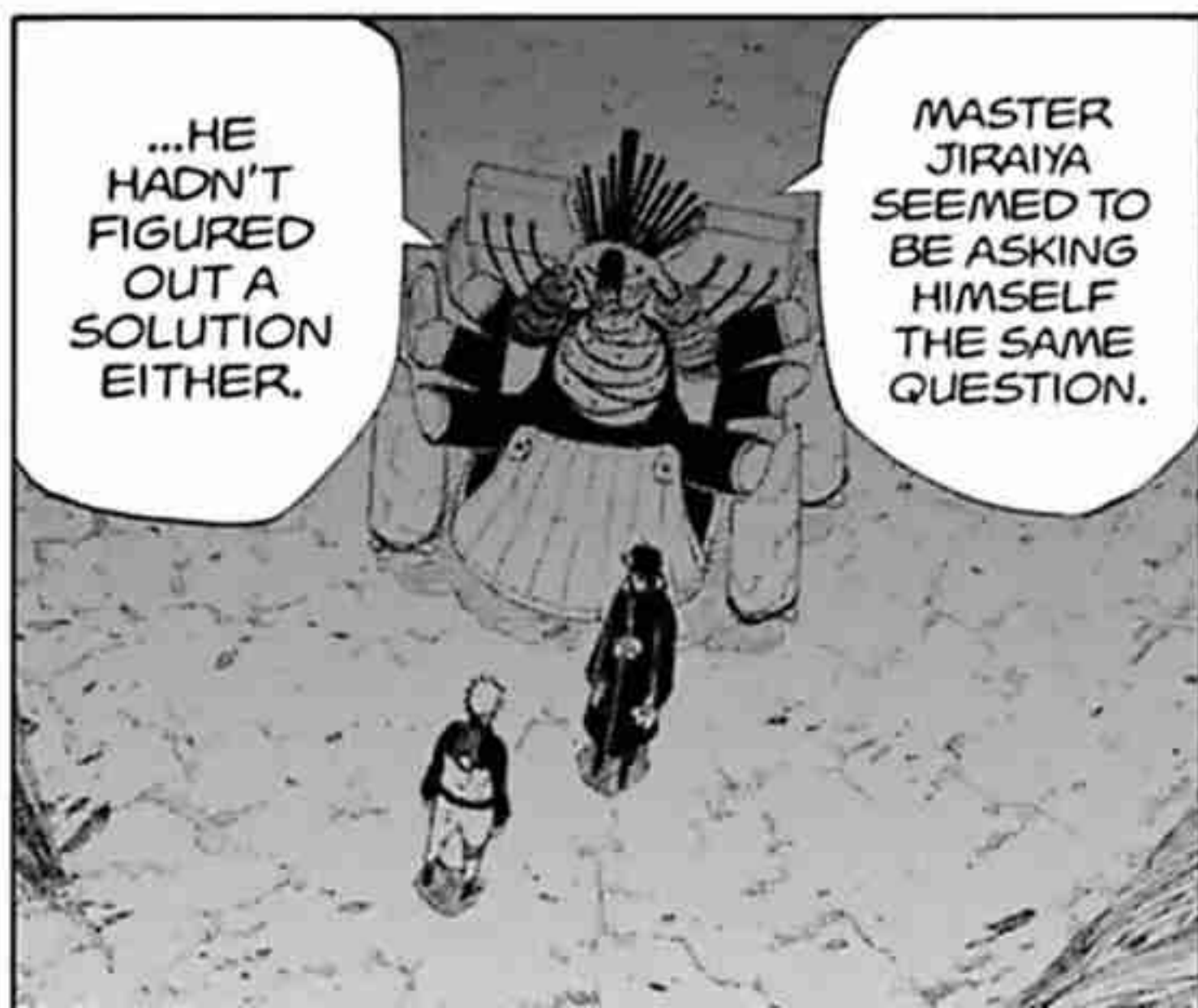


JUST
LIKE YOU
HAVEN'T.



...HE
HADN'T
FIGURED
OUT A
SOLUTION
EITHER.

MASTER
JIRAIYA
SEEMED TO
BE ASKING
HIMSELF
THE SAME
QUESTION.





...I
SEE.

I JUST
WANT TO
PROTECT
THEM.

NO
MATTER
HOW MUCH
PAIN
BEFALLS
ME.

BACK THEN,
I WAS ABLE
TO COME
UP WITH AN
ANSWER
RIGHT
AWAY...



I WANT
TO DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT
IT...

THAT THIS
WORLD
IS JUST
ONE WAR
AFTER
ANOTHER...
IT'S FULL
OF HATE.



MASTER
...

...WHAT
ARE YOU
ALWAYS
PONDER-
ING?



I'D
REALLY
LIKE TO
KNOW...
WHAT
PEACE
IS...

HOWEVER,
MASTER'S
WORDS
CONTINUED
TO LURK
DEEP DOWN
AT THE
BOTTOM OF
MY HEART.



AFTER WE
TRAINED
FOR THREE
YEARS,
BOTH MY
BODY AND
SOUL GREW
STRONGER,
AND I FELT
AS IF I HAD
MATURED.

THAT
ERA WAS
EVEN
WORSE
THAN
WHAT
WE HAVE
NOW.



ONCE,
A REALLY
LONG
TIME
AGO...
...PEOPLE DID
NOTHING
BUT BATTLE.
IT WAS ALL
JUST ONE BIG
UNENDING
WAR.

...FOR
MASTER
HAD TOLD
ME THAT HE
WONDERED
IF THE
SOLUTION
LAY WITH MY
RINNEGAN.



NINJUTSU
STARTED
OUT NOT AS
WEAPONS,
BUT AS
TEACHINGS
MEANT TO
HELP HUMANS
ACHIEVE
PEACE.

TIME
PASSED,
AND NINSHU
CAME TO
BE CALLED
NINJUTSU.

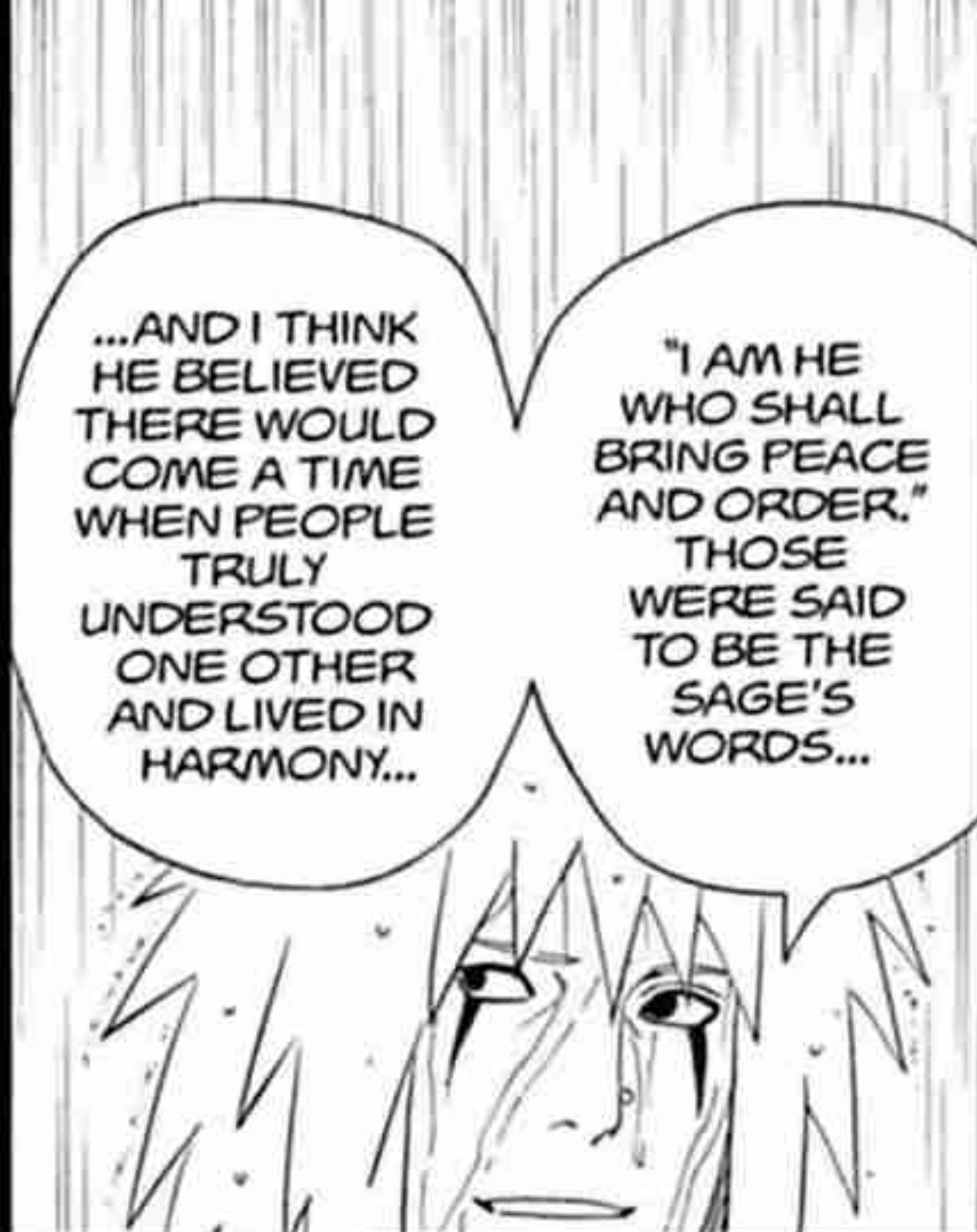
IT IS SAID
HE TRAVELED
ACROSS
THE WORLD,
PREACHING
NINSHU,
THE SHINOBI
CREED.



HE WAS
THE FIRST
TO DIS-
COVER THE
WORKINGS
OF CHAKRA.
HE TRIED
TO LEAD
THE WORLD
TOWARD
PEACE.

ONE DAY,
A
MYSTERIOUS
MONK
APPEARED.





...AND I THINK
HE BELIEVED
THERE WOULD
COME A TIME
WHEN PEOPLE
TRULY
UNDERSTOOD
ONE OTHER
AND LIVED IN
HARMONY...

"I AM HE
WHO SHALL
BRING PEACE
AND ORDER."
THOSE
WERE SAID
TO BE THE
SAGE'S
WORDS...



HE WAS
CONSIDERED
THE SAVIOR
OF THE
WORLD...
AND LIKE
YOU, HE
POSSESSED
THE
RINNEGAN.

THAT
MONK WAS
KNOWN AS
THE SAGE
OF SIX
PATHS.



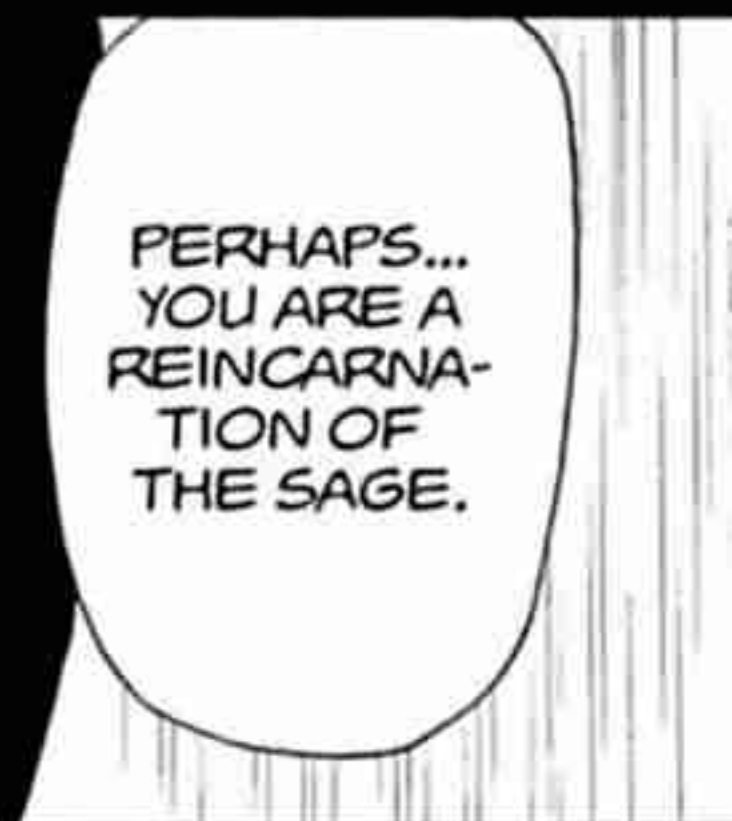
...AND
THEN
LEFT
US TO
OUR-
SELVES.



MASTER
CON-
FERRED
THE
QUEST
FOR
PEACE
ON ME...



I JUST
GET THE
FEELING
THAT THE
SAGE'S
HOPES
WERE
BESTOWED
UPON YOUR
EYES.



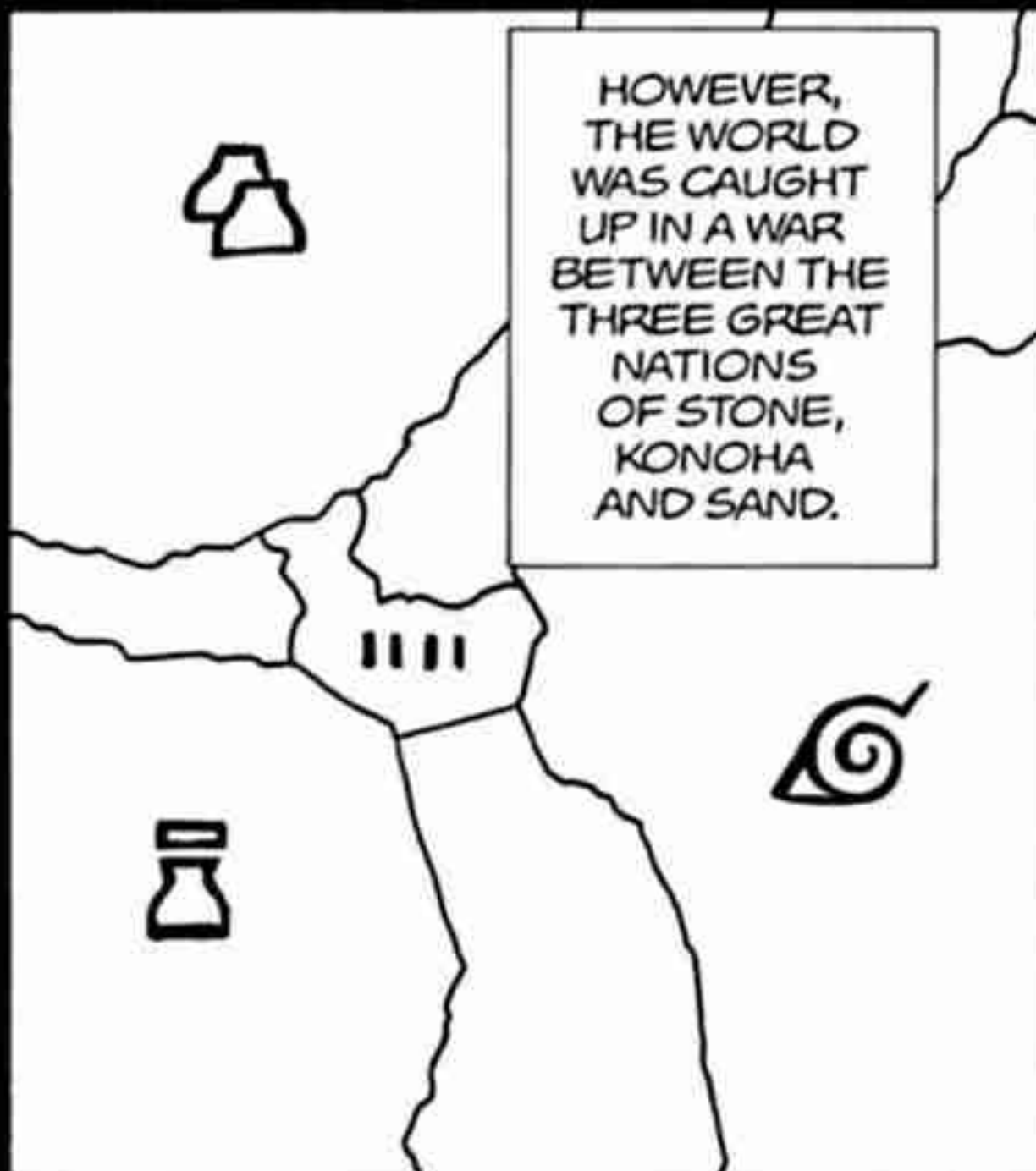
PERHAPS...
YOU ARE A
REINCARNATION
OF
THE SAGE.



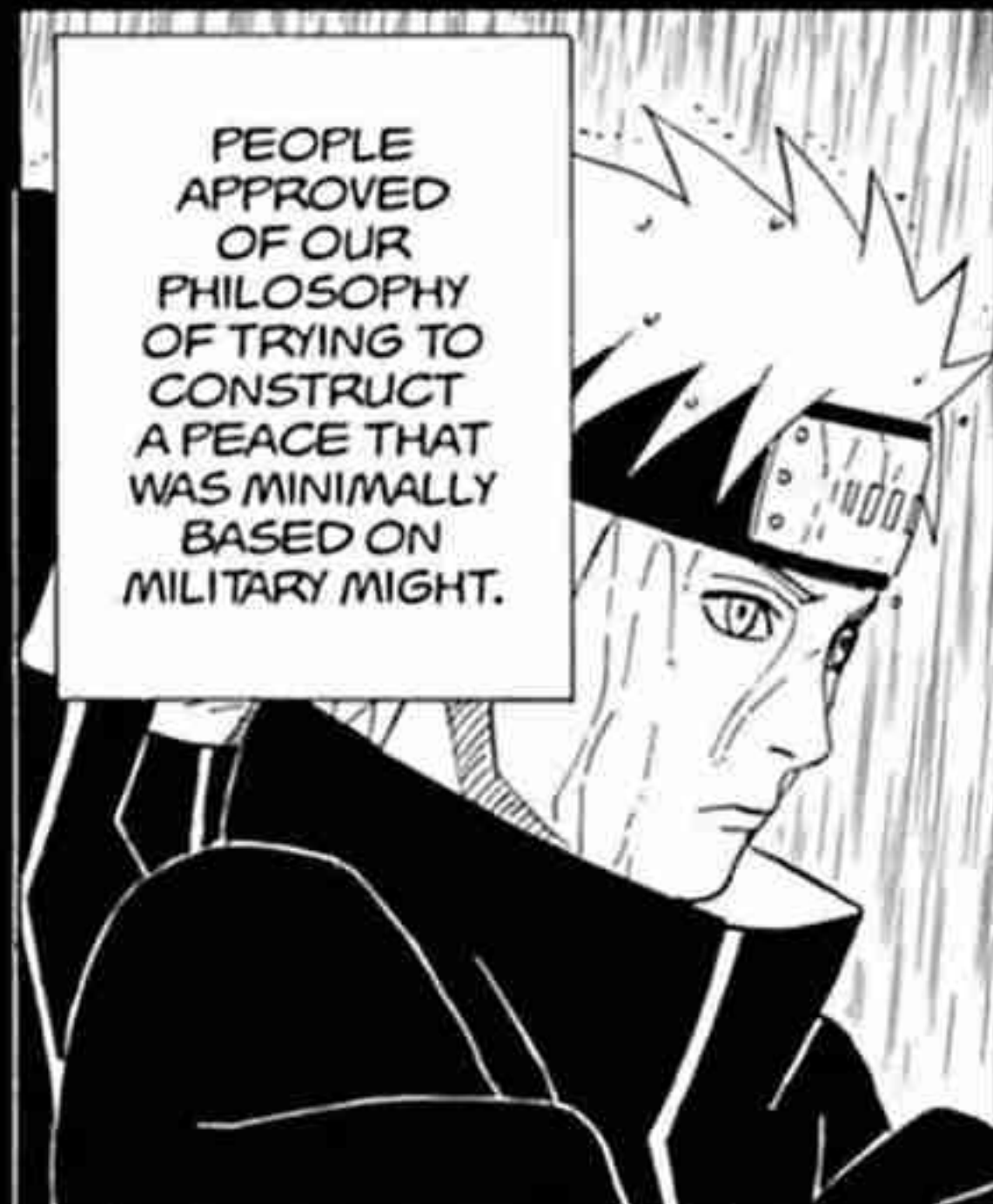
OUR
ORGANIZATION
QUICKLY
GAINED
FAME.



WE
STARTED
GATHERING
COMRADES,
WITH YAHIKO
AS OUR
LEADER.



HOWEVER,
THE WORLD
WAS CAUGHT
UP IN A WAR
BETWEEN THE
THREE GREAT
NATIONS
OF STONE,
KONOHA
AND SAND.



PEOPLE
APPROVED
OF OUR
PHILOSOPHY
OF TRYING TO
CONSTRUCT
A PEACE THAT
WAS MINIMALLY
BASED ON
MILITARY MIGHT.



BECAUSE
HE COULD
NO
LONGER
IGNORE
OUR
EXISTENCE.

RUMORS
OF OUR
ORGANIZATION
REACHED THE
AMEGAKURE
LEADER HANZO,
AND HE
APPROACHED
US.



WE
DECIDED TO
COOPERATE
WITH HIS
PLAN.



OUR POWER
WOULD BE
USED TO
ELICIT
MUTUAL
AGREEMENT
FROM ALL
THE PARTIES.



HANZO PROPOSED
TO MAKE US A
NEXUS IN AN
EFFORT TO
LAUNCH PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE
THREE GREAT
NATIONS.



MISFOR-
TUNES
...?

WHAT
HAP-
PENED?!

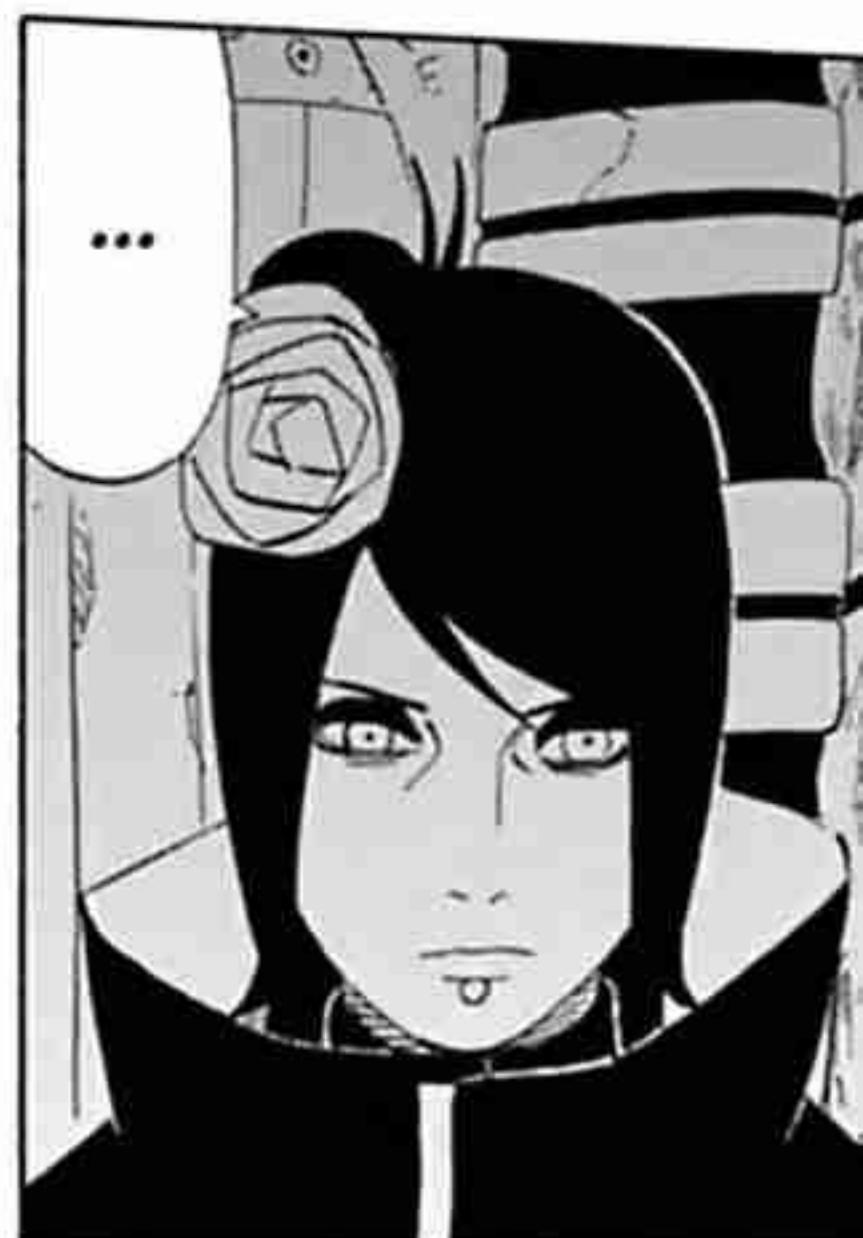


BUT THAT
ENDED UP
BEING THE
BEGINNING
OF ALL OF
OUR MISFOR-
TUNES.

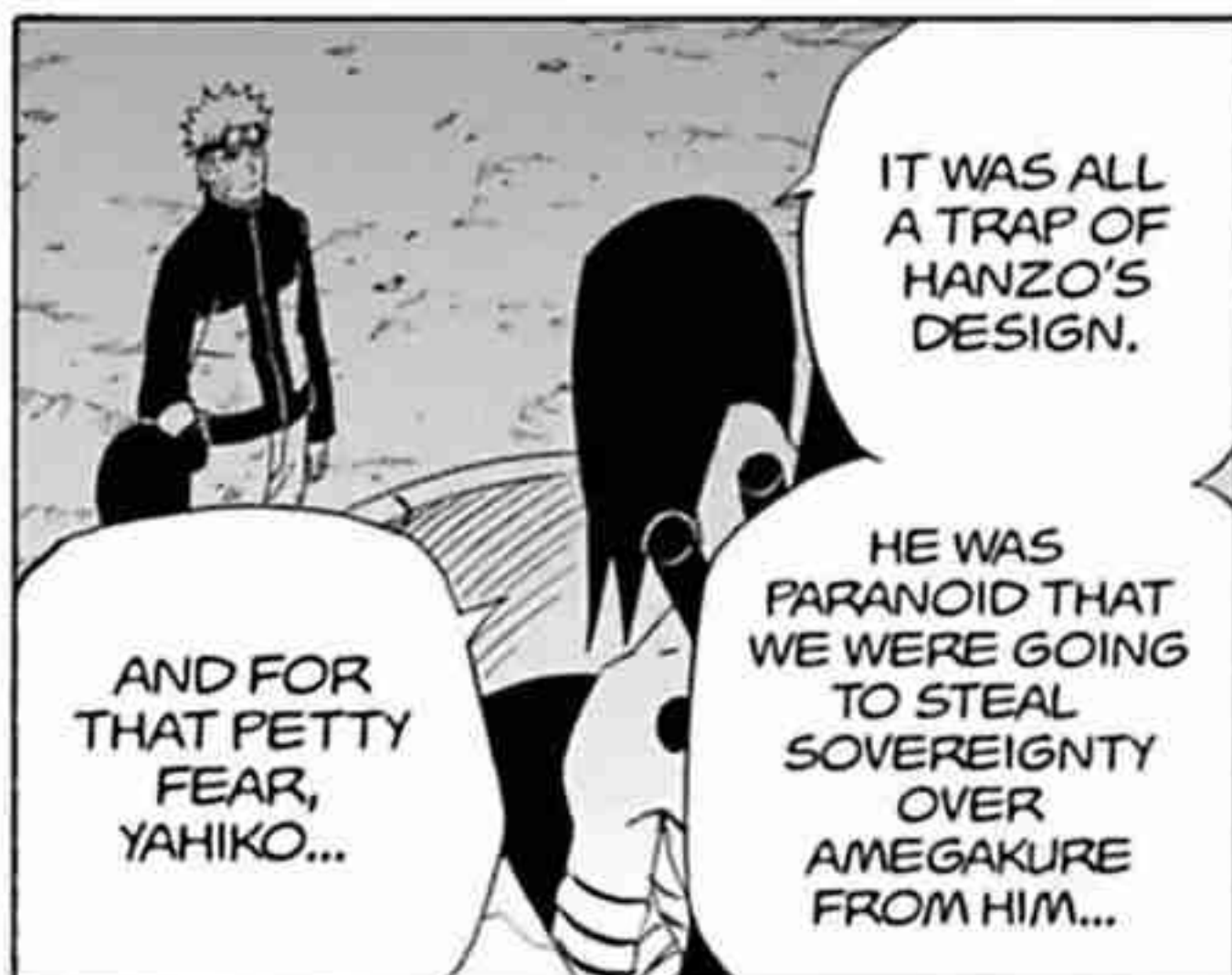
WE
WERE
NAÏVE
CHILDREN.



YAHIKO
DIED.



...



IT WAS ALL
A TRAP OF
HANZO'S
DESIGN.

HE WAS
PARANOID THAT
WE WERE GOING
TO STEAL
SOVEREIGNTY
OVER
AMEGAKURE
FROM HIM...

AND FOR
THAT PETTY
FEAR,
YAHIKO...



...DIED?

?!



...HANZO'S
SUBORDI-
NATES AND
KONOHA'S
BLACK OPS
LAY IN WAIT.

THE NEXT DAY,
AT THE
RENDEZVOUS
POINT WHERE
THE NEGOTIA-
TIONS WERE
SUPPOSED TO
OCCUR...



HANZO,
TO
PROTECT
HIS OWN
AUTHORITY.

DANZO
JOINED
WITH
HANZO IN
ORDER
TO USURP
THE SEAT
OF
HOKAGE.



HANZO
HAD ALLIED
WITH THIS
KONOHA
MAN
DANZO
TO TRY TO
ERADICATE
US.



RESIST
AND I
MURDER
HER
INSTEAD!



YAHIKO...
YOU LEAD
THEM.
SO YOU
MUST
DIE.

YOUR
ORGANIZA-
TION IS
SIMPLY A
NUISANCE.



UGH
...!



IF YOU DO, I'LL SPARE YOU AND THE GIRL.

YOU, REDHEAD... KILL YAHIKO WITH THAT.

THOK



NAGATO, DON'T!!

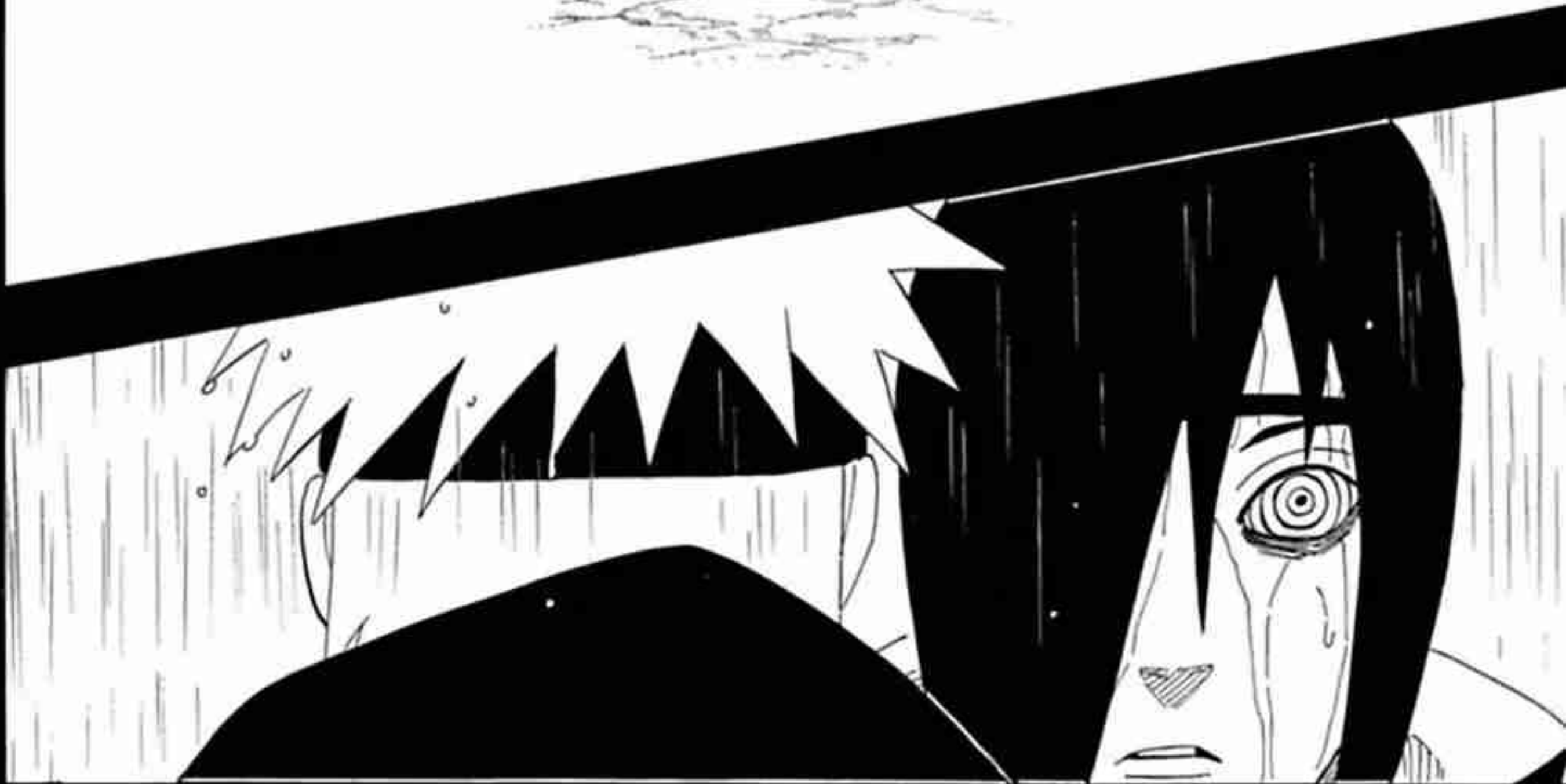
FORGET ABOUT ME, JUST RUN AWAY, BOTH OF YOU!!



KILL ME.













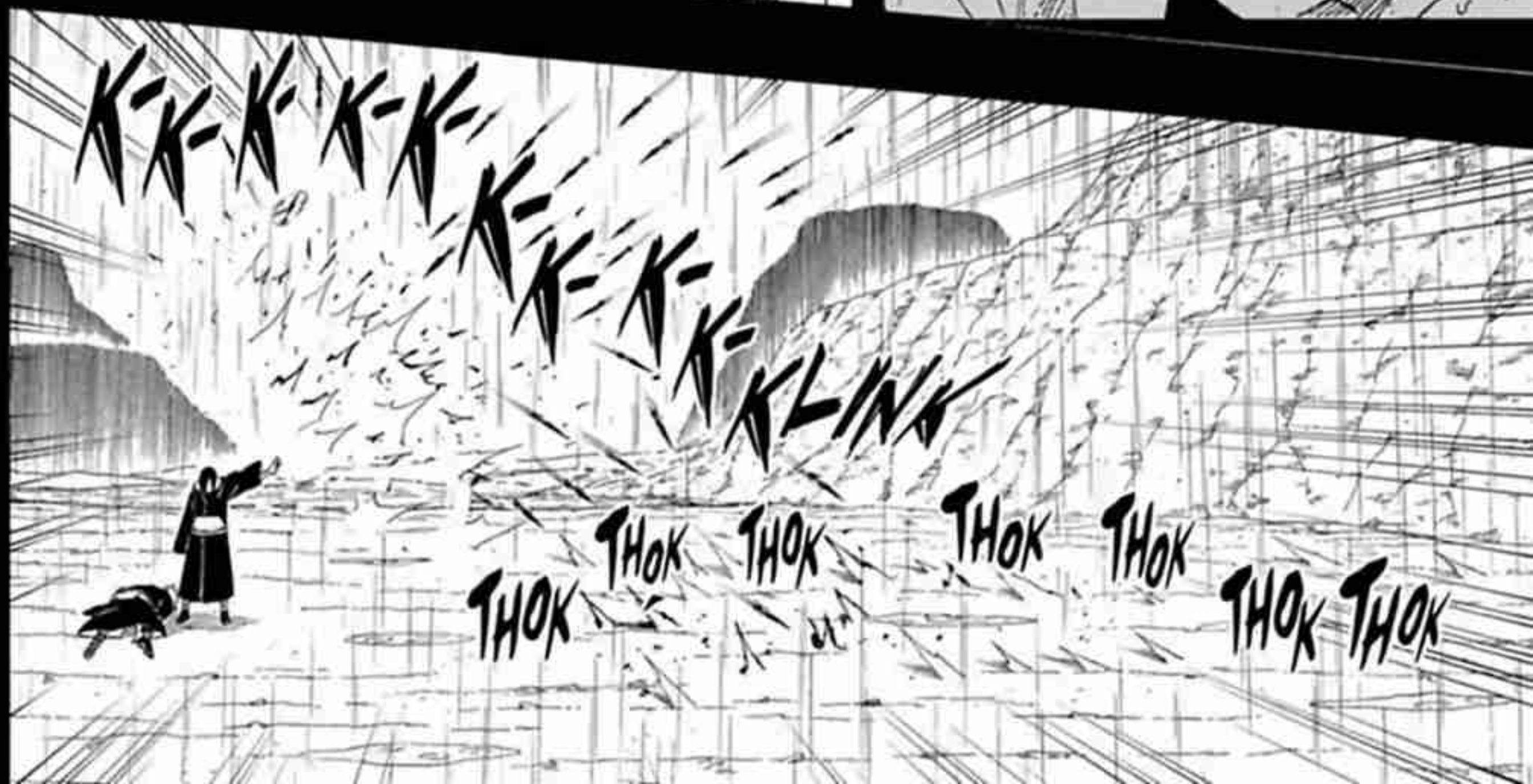
Number 447: I Believe

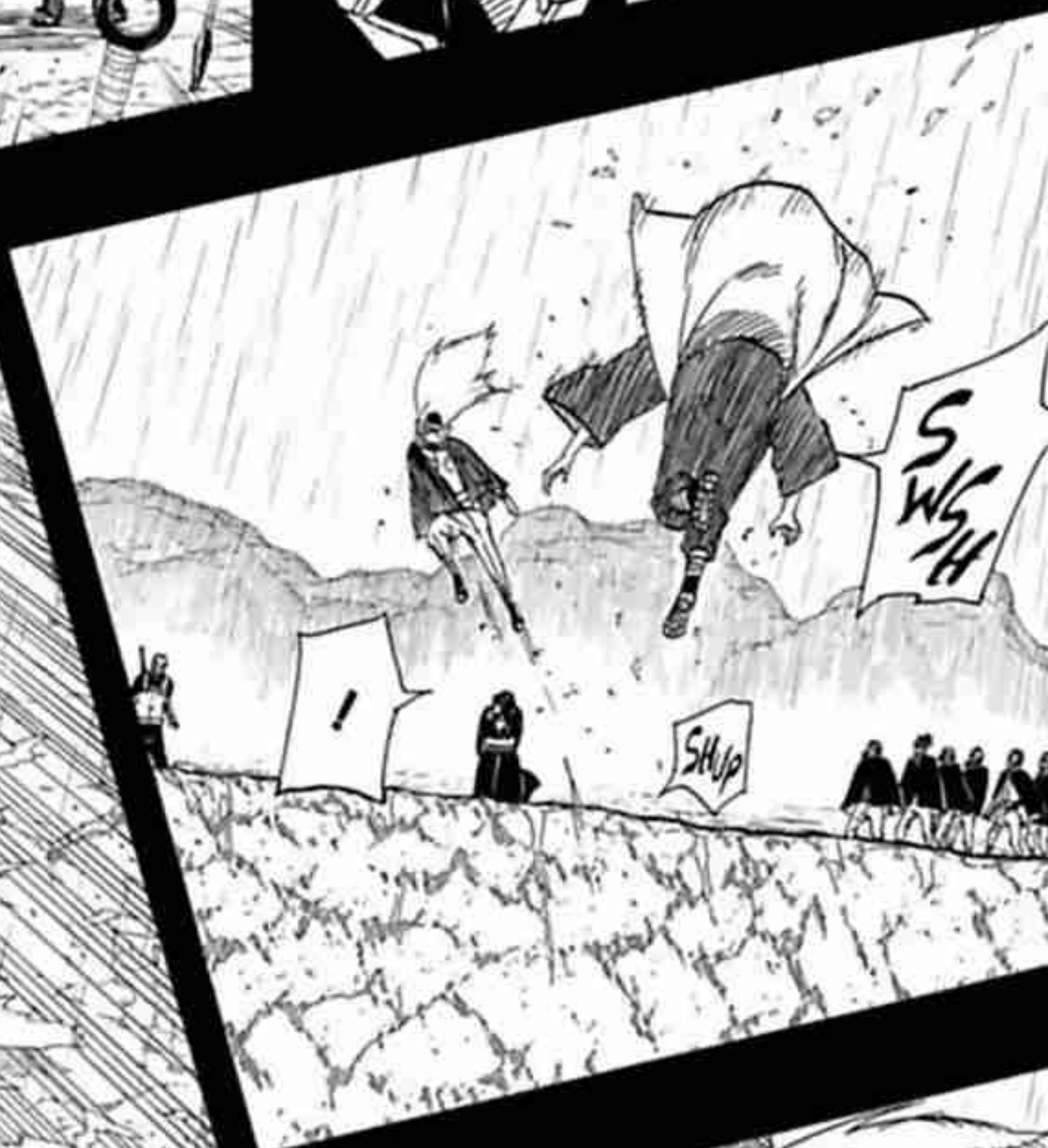




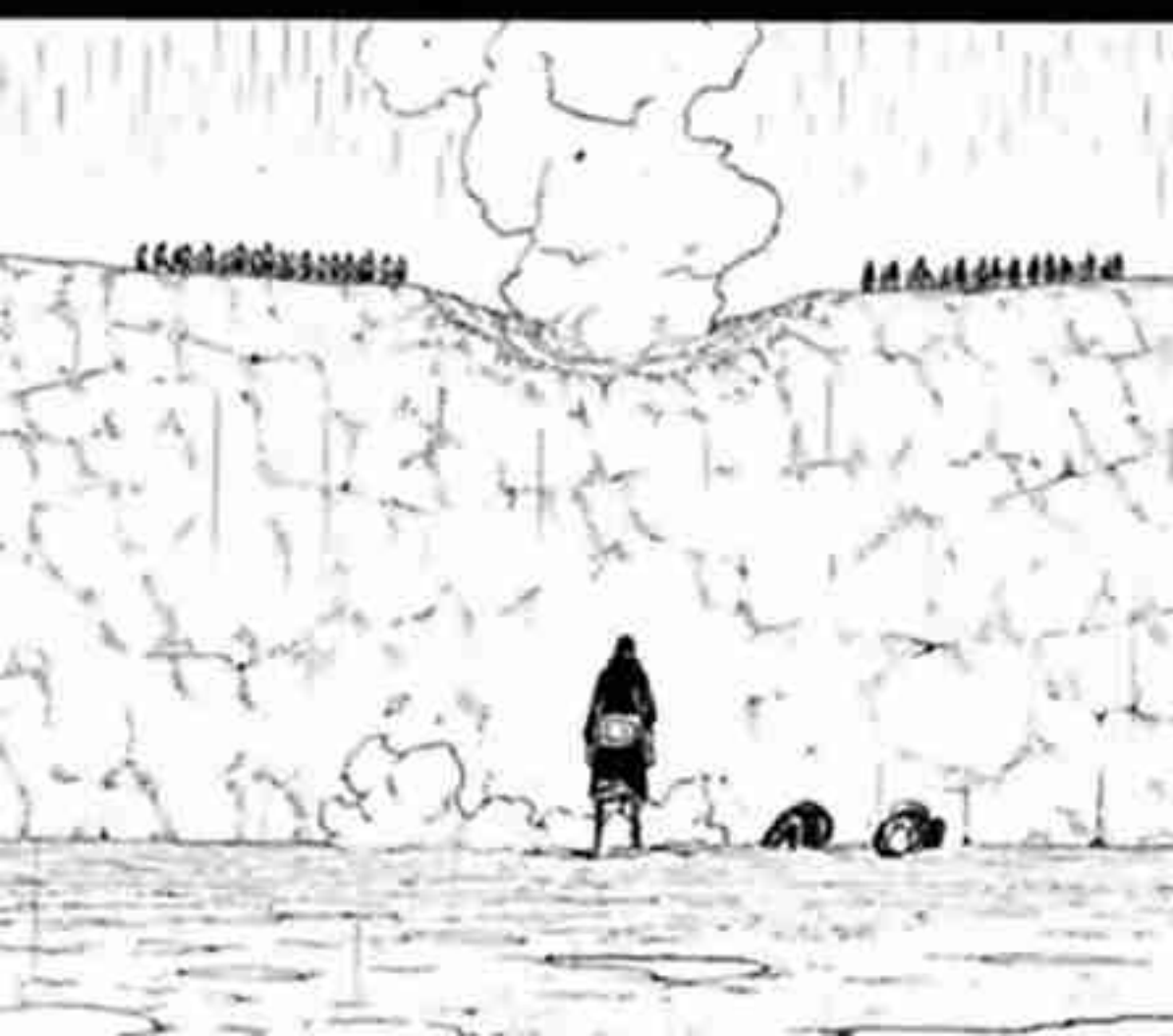
...I WILL
RULE THIS
WORLD
AND
MAKE IT
STOP!

THIS
WORLD
IS ALL
ABOUT
NEVER-
ENDING
WAR...











IMPRES-
SIVE,
BOY!

YOU
ESCAPED
EVEN
WHILE
BEING HIT
BY MY
KATON!



GET
HIM!



YOU'RE
NO
ORDINARY
BRAT...

...
THOSE
EYES...



RRRRRR RRRR

THAT'S
...!



GEDO
STATUE
!!

KUCHIYOSE
SUMMON-
ING!

STAMP



THOON

NAGATO,
NO,
DON'T
USE
THAT!



ARGH!

KRAK
KRAK

KRAK
KRAK

GAH!



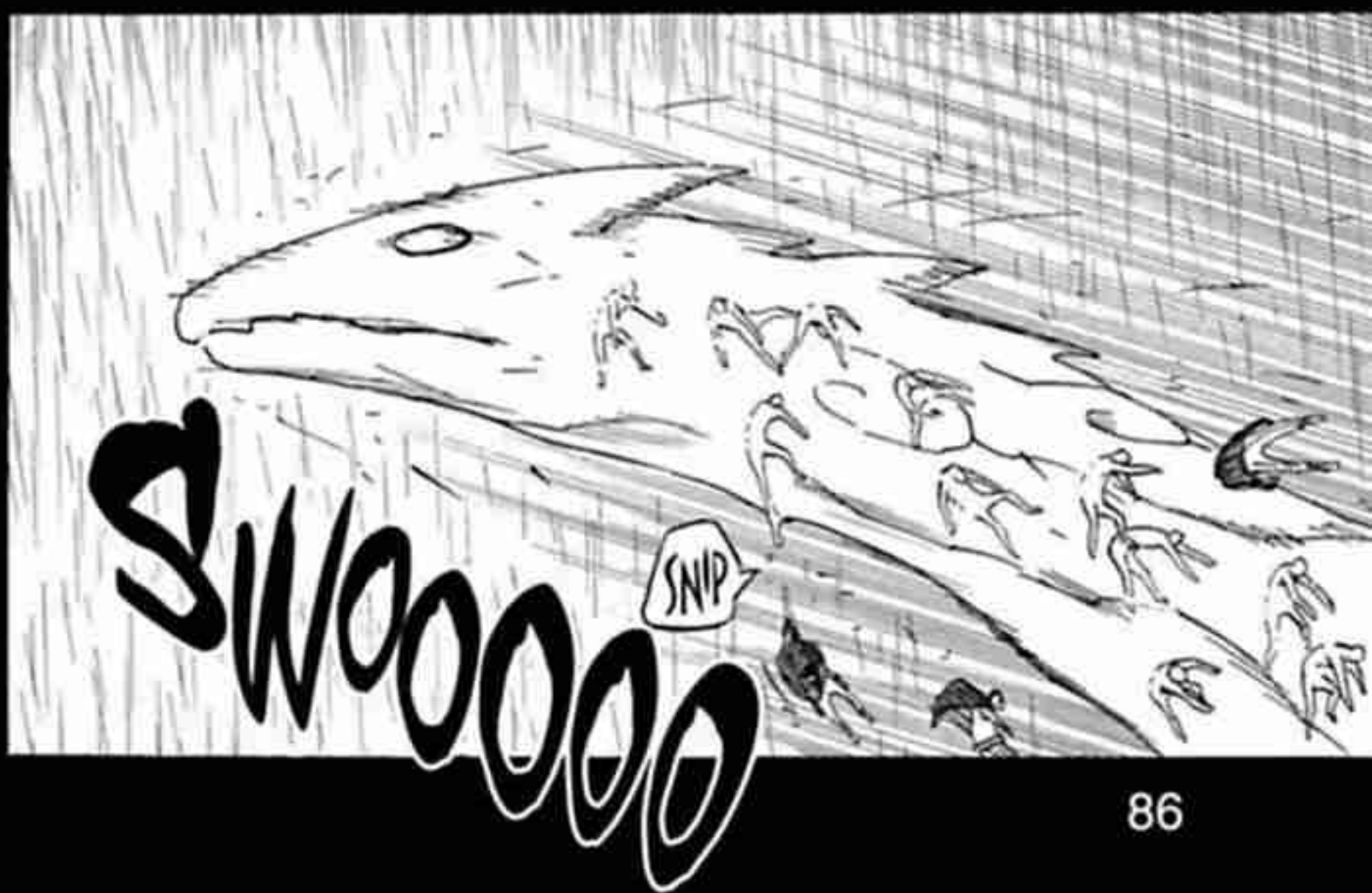
GAZZZZZ!!!



GAZZZZZ!!!



WHA...
WHAT
IS
THAT?











AND
FROM
THEN ON,
I TOOK
OVER
AS THE
LEADER
OF OUR
ORGANI-
ZATION.

YAHIKO
DIED...

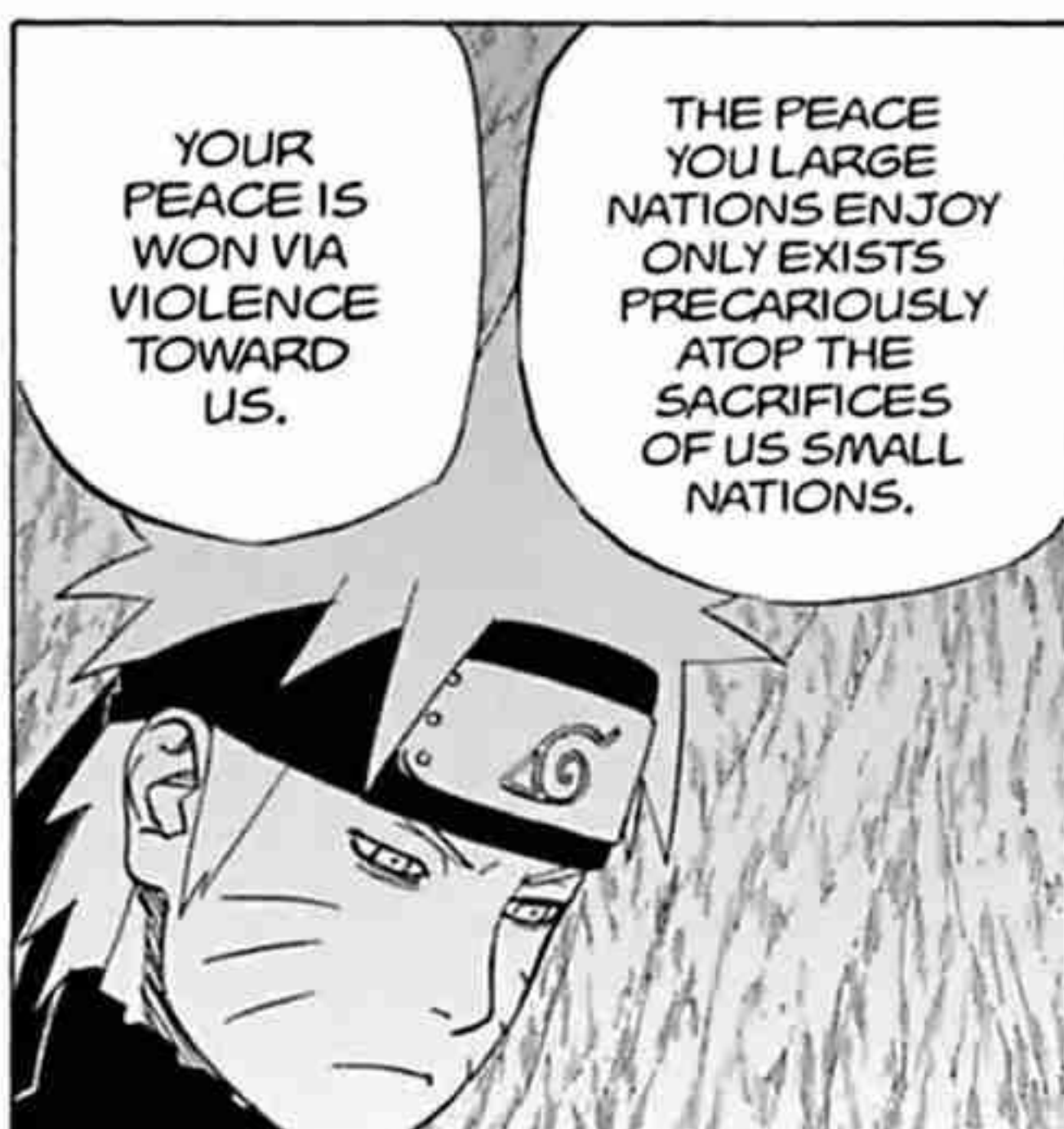


THEY
KEPT
DYING.



MANY,
MANY
OTHERS
...

SINCE
THAT DAY,
MANY
OTHER
COMRADES
DIED IN
BATTLE.



YOUR
PEACE IS
WON VIA
VIOLENCE
TOWARD
US.

THE PEACE
YOU LARGE
NATIONS ENJOY
ONLY EXISTS
PRECARIOUSLY
ATOP THE
SACRIFICES
OF US SMALL
NATIONS.

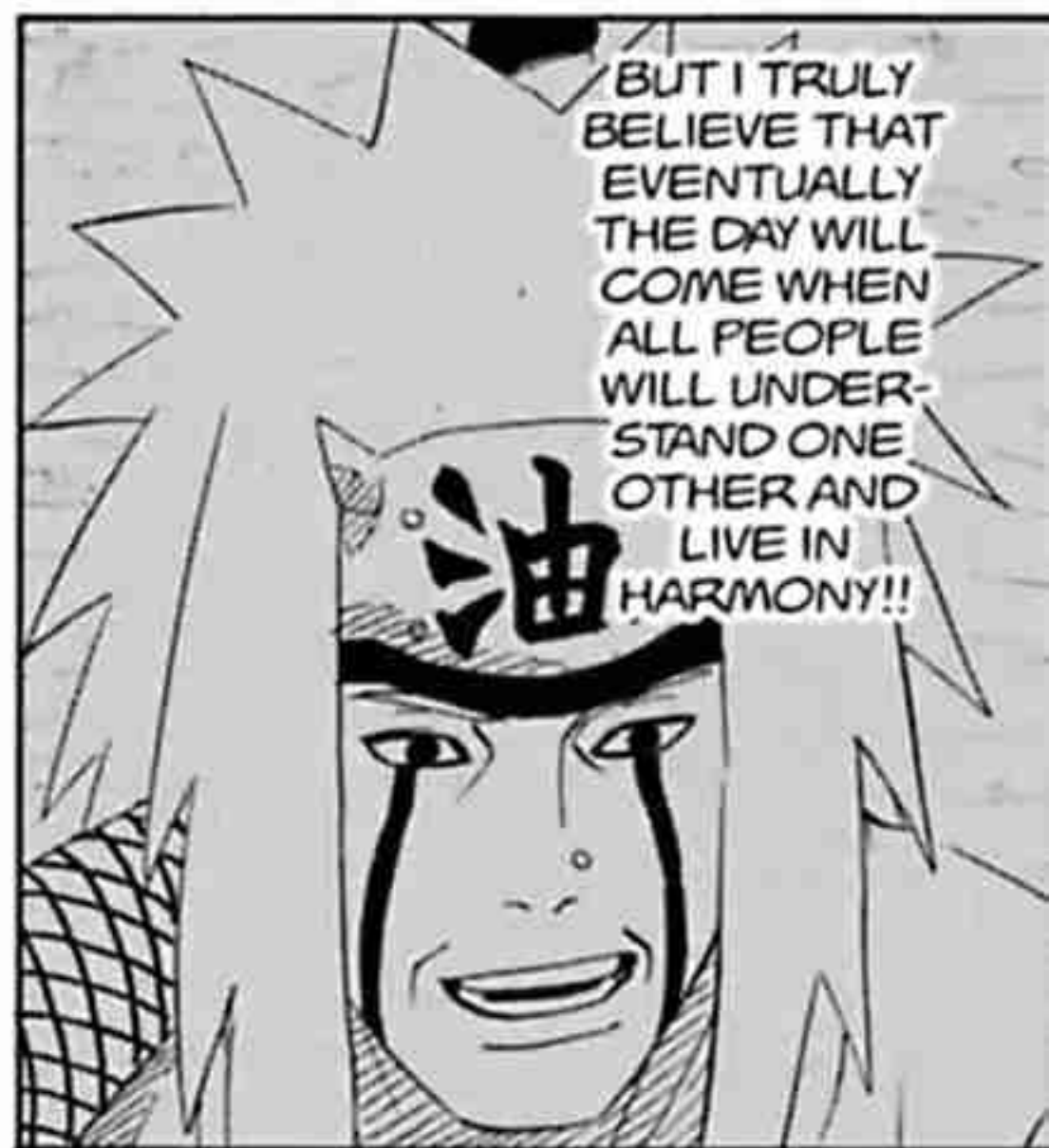


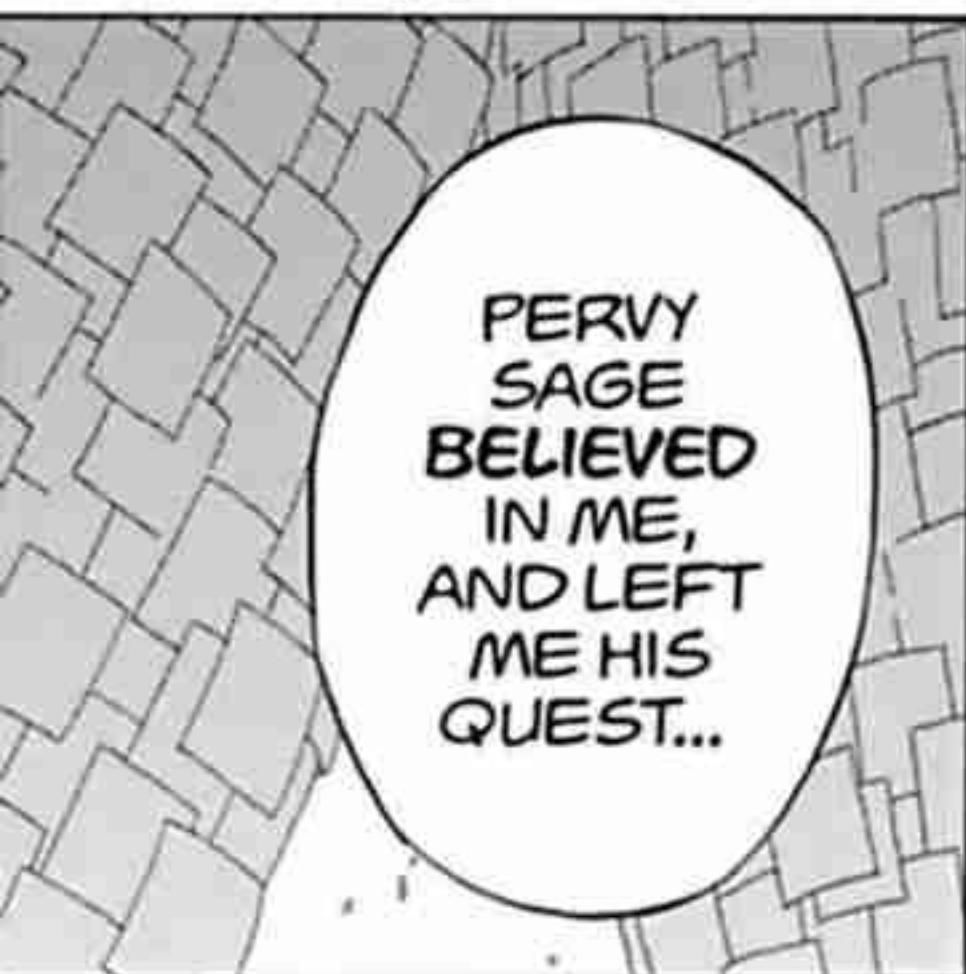
THE SMALL
COMMISSIONS
THEY PAY
TO KONOHA-
GAKURE
BECOME WAR
FUNDS.

AND THE
CITIZENS OF
THE LAND
OF FIRE,
WHILE
KNOWING
THE TRUTH,
STILL
FALSELY
PROCLAIM
PEACE.

THE
PEACE-
ADDLED
CITIZENS
OF YOUR
LAND OF
FIRE...







NARUTO



Number 448: Heirloom...!!





IF
THERE'S
SUCH A
THING AS
PEACE,
I'LL FIND
IT!

IN THAT
CASE...
I'LL
BREAK
THE
CURSE.



I'M
NOT
GIVING
UP!



NAGATO...
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?

?



...
THAT'S
...

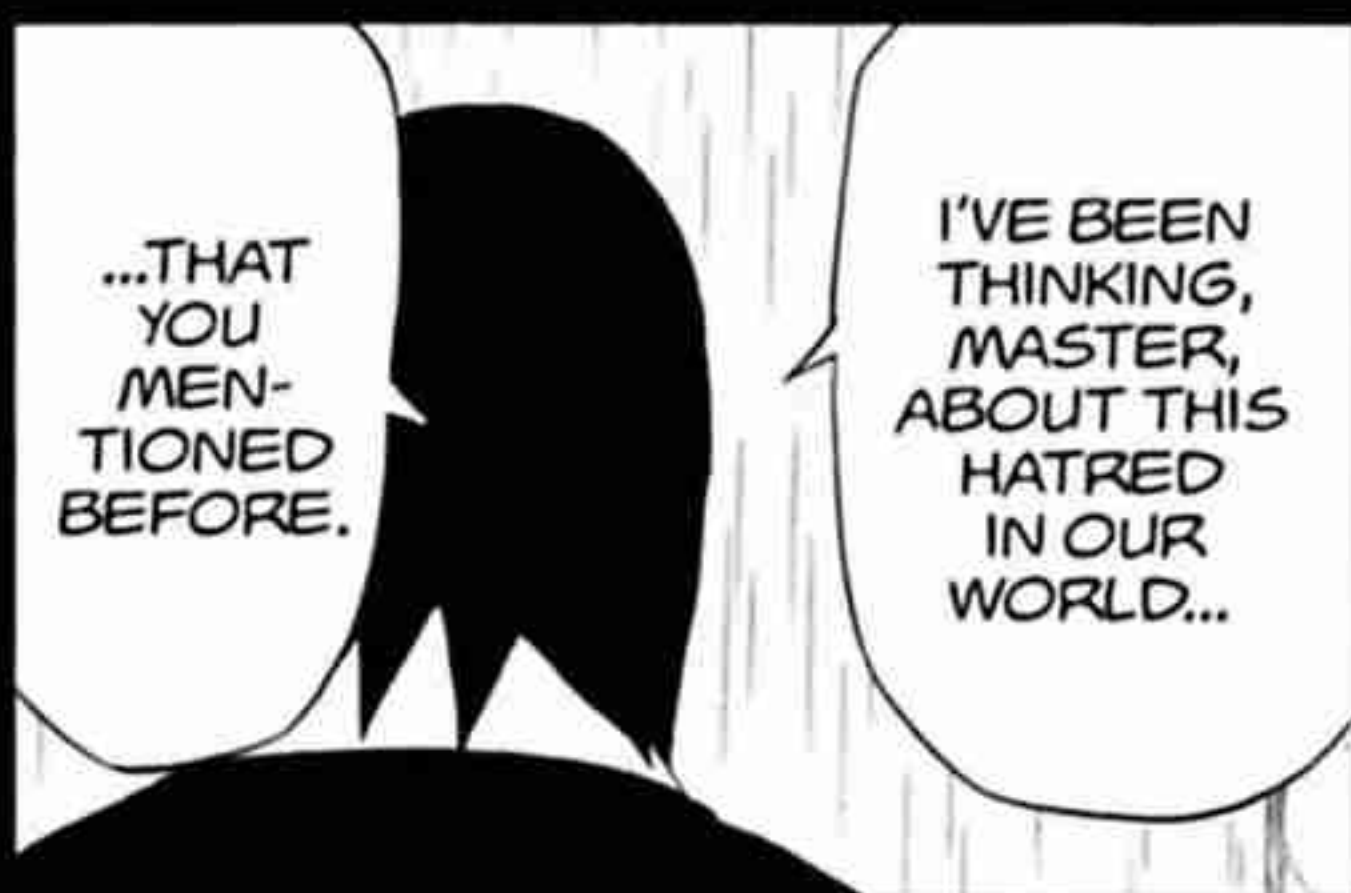
YOU
...



...









IF
THERE'S
SUCH A
THING AS
PEACE,
I PROMISE
TO FIND IT!

...I
SWEAR
TO BREAK
THIS
CURSE
ONE DAY.



HUH...
THAT'S AN
EXCELLENT
THOUGHT.

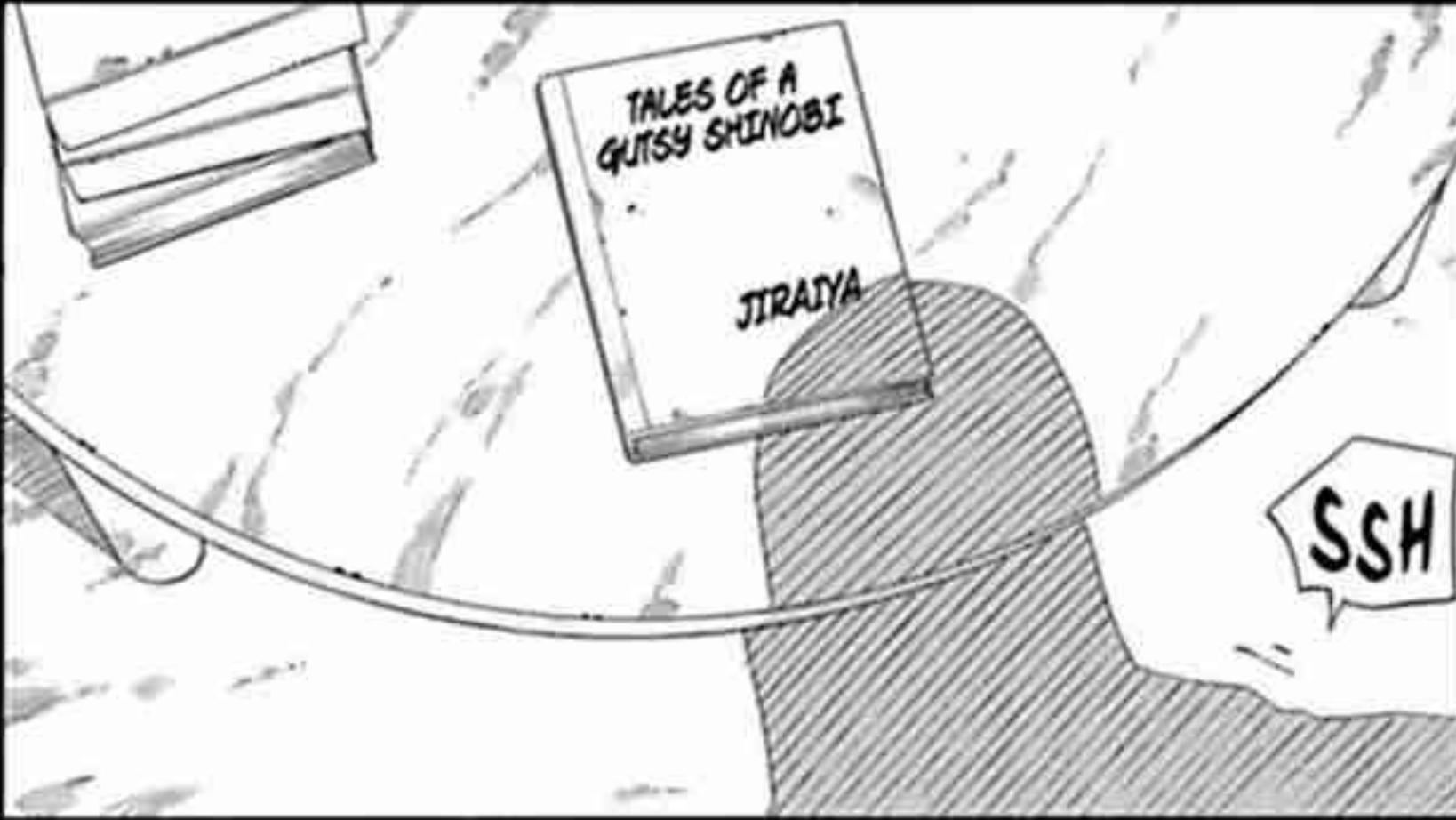
YOU
MAY VERY
WELL BE
CORRECT.



WHAT'S
EVEN MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN THE
METHODS
THEMSELVES
...

...IS
HAVING
FAITH AND
BELIEVING
IN THEM!







I'M
STARTING
TO TIRE
OF OUR
GAME OF
TAG.

READY
TO
GIVE UP
YET?





BO

OF





I
JUST
HAVE
ONE
THING
TO SAY
...



SURREN-
DER.



DWHAM

I'M NOT
INTERESTED
IN
HEARING
IT...
GIVE UP
NOW!!





HEH
HEH
HEH
...



UGH...



FSH





I CAN'T
JUST
GIVE UP
AND
SULLY MY
MASTER'S
GIFT!

MY NAME
IS A
PRECIOUS
HEIRLOOM
FROM
PERVY
SAGE!

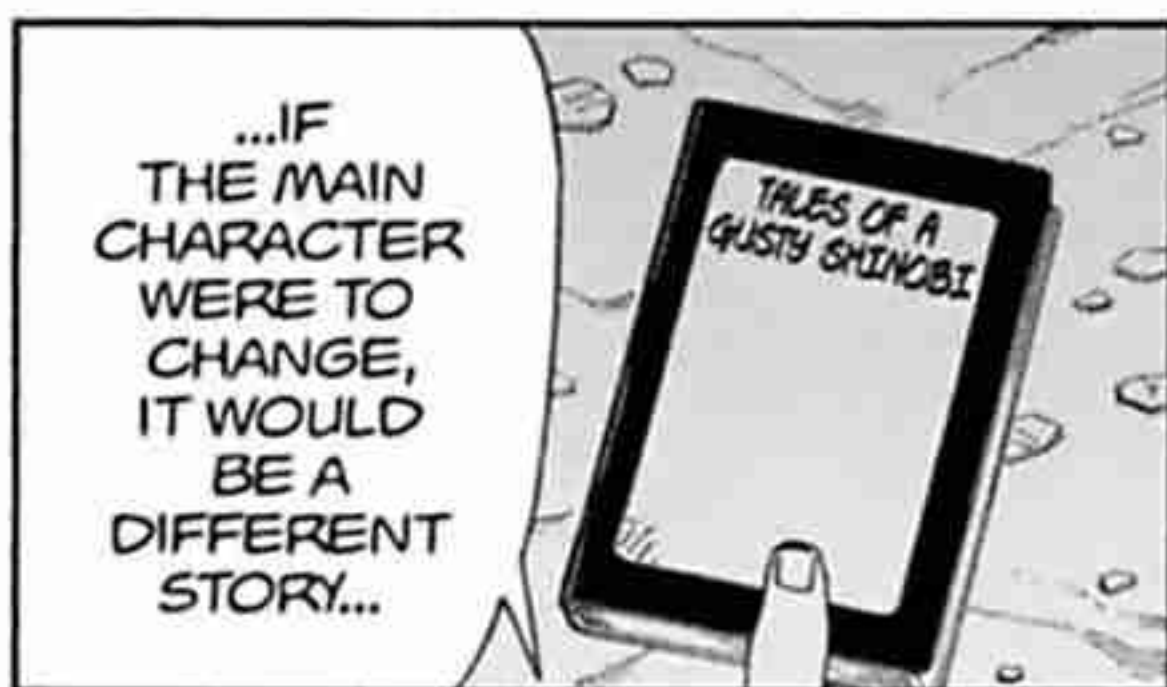


SO
PLEASE
BELIEVE
IN ME!



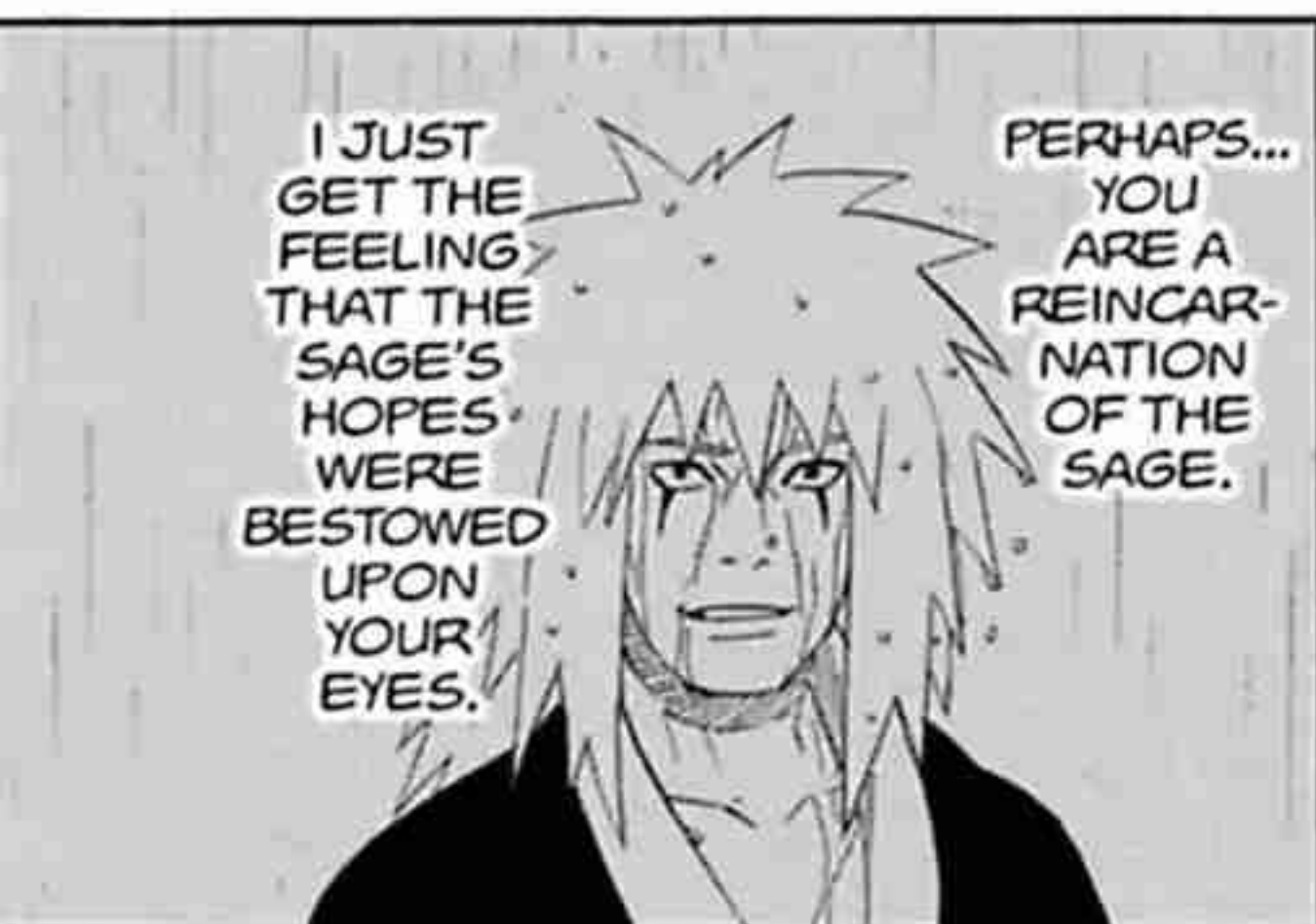
AND I WILL
BRING
PEACE TO
AMEGAKURE!

I WILL
BE
HOKAGE!





**BECAUSE
THAT'S
WHO
NARUTO
IS!**





AND
I ALSO
BELIEVE
IN YOU.

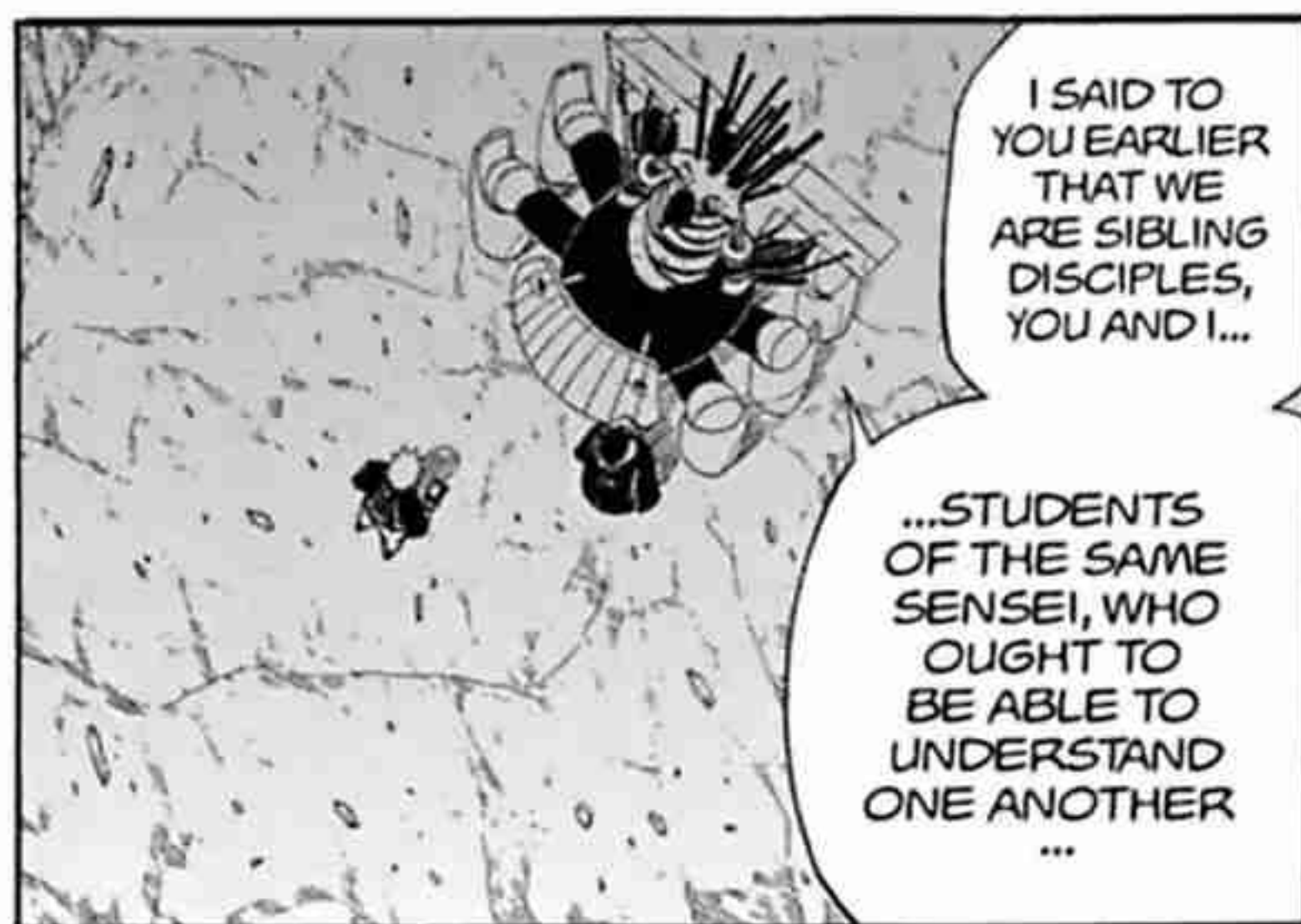
I
BELIEVE
YOU ARE
THAT
REVOLU-
TIONARY.



HEH
HEH
HEH...







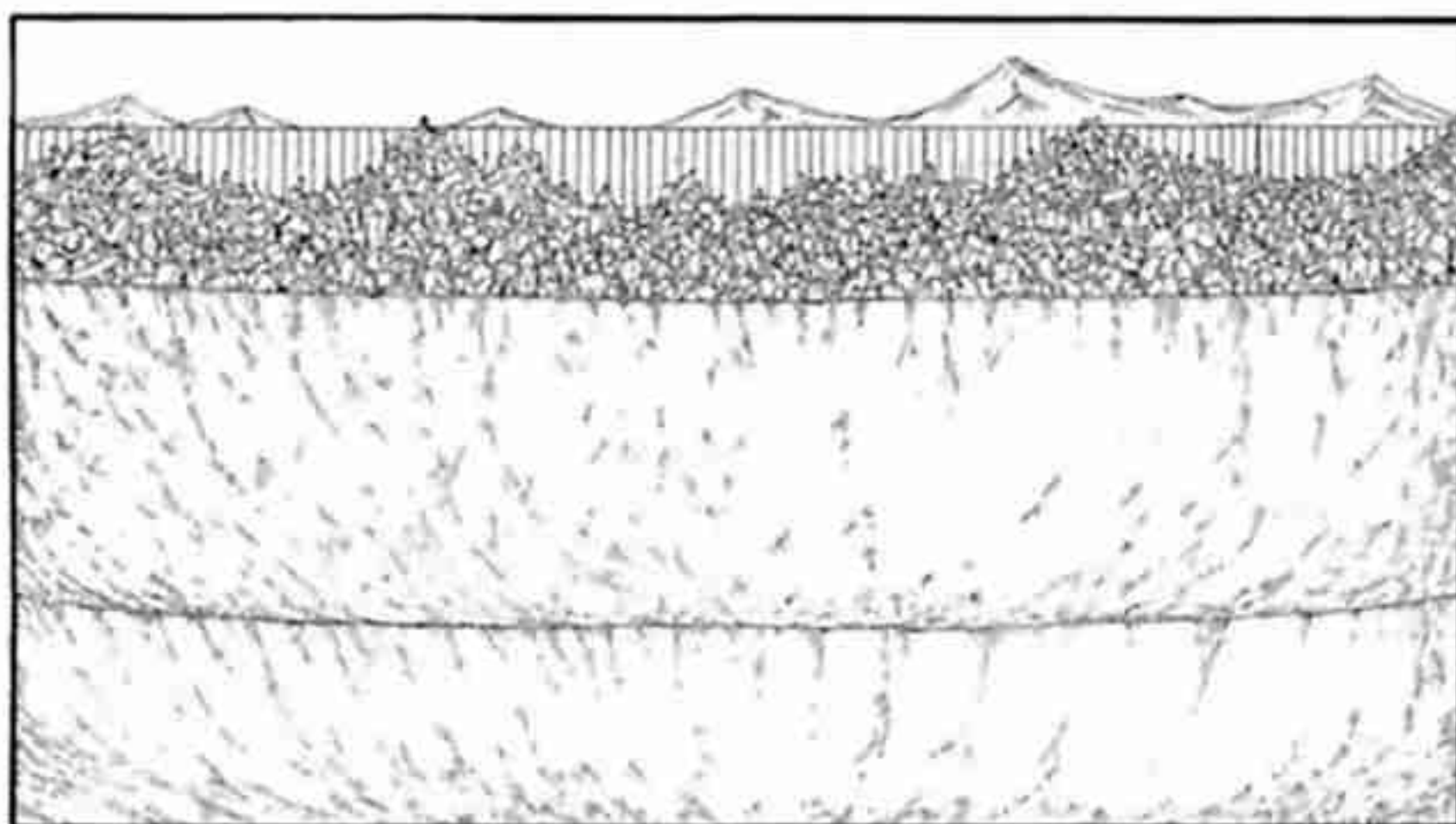






Number 449: The Blossom of Hope

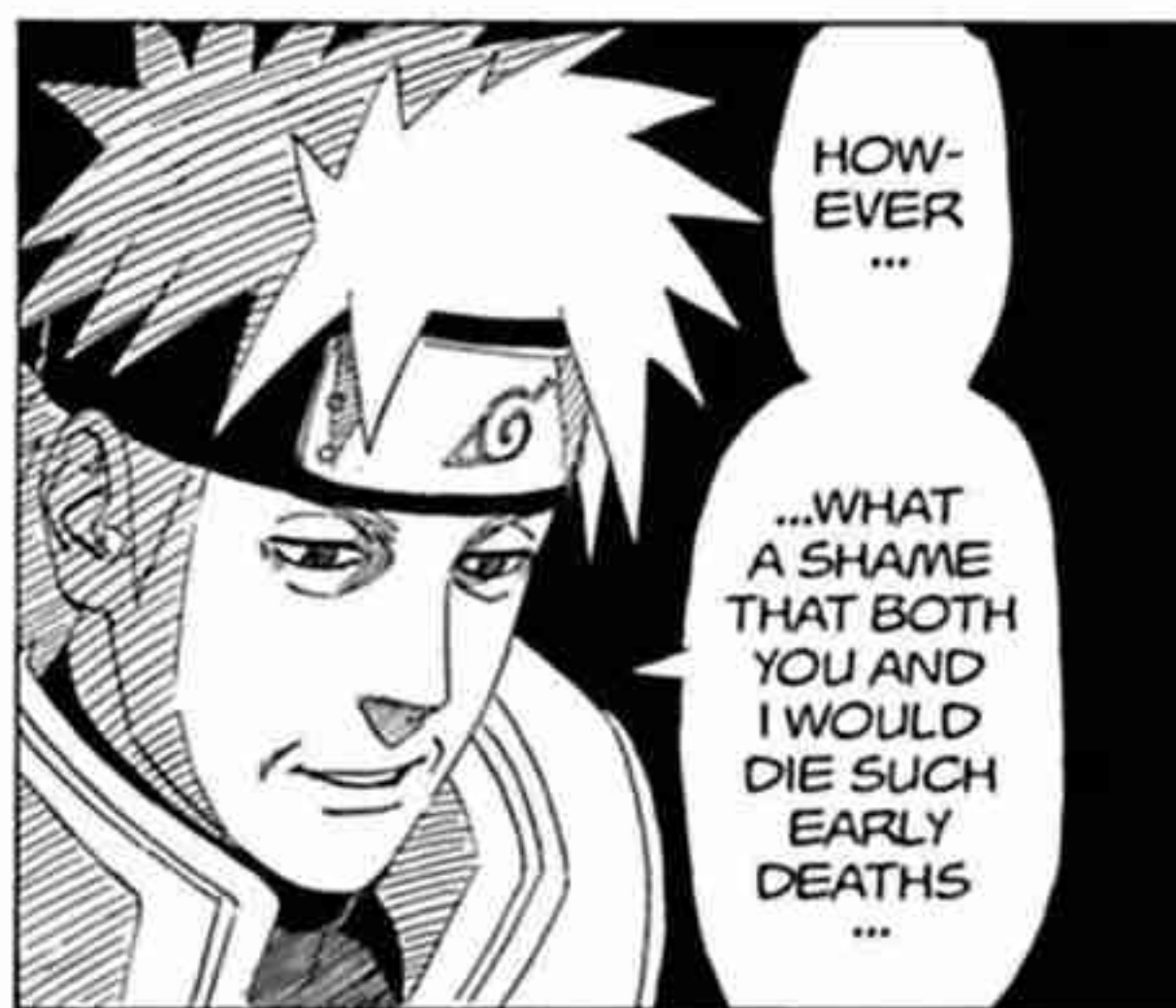










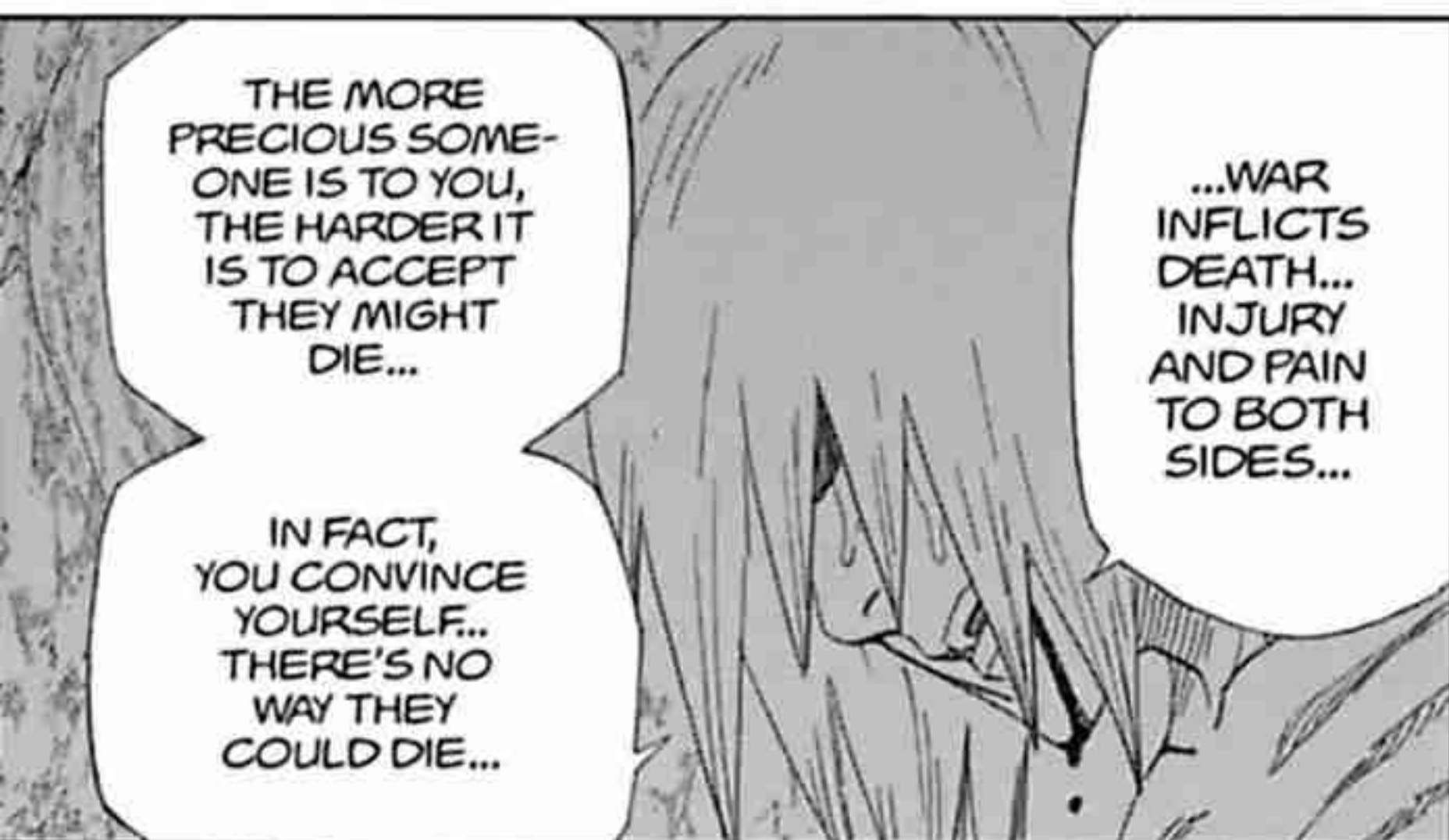














THAT'S...
WHAT
WAR IS...

WASTEFUL
DEATH...
ETERNAL
HATRED...
AND PAIN
THAT
DOES NOT
HEAL...



...IT
FEELS
LIKE...
SOMEONE...
SET IT
ALL UP...

WITH
REGARD
TO THAT
BOOK...
AND
YOU...



HEH
...



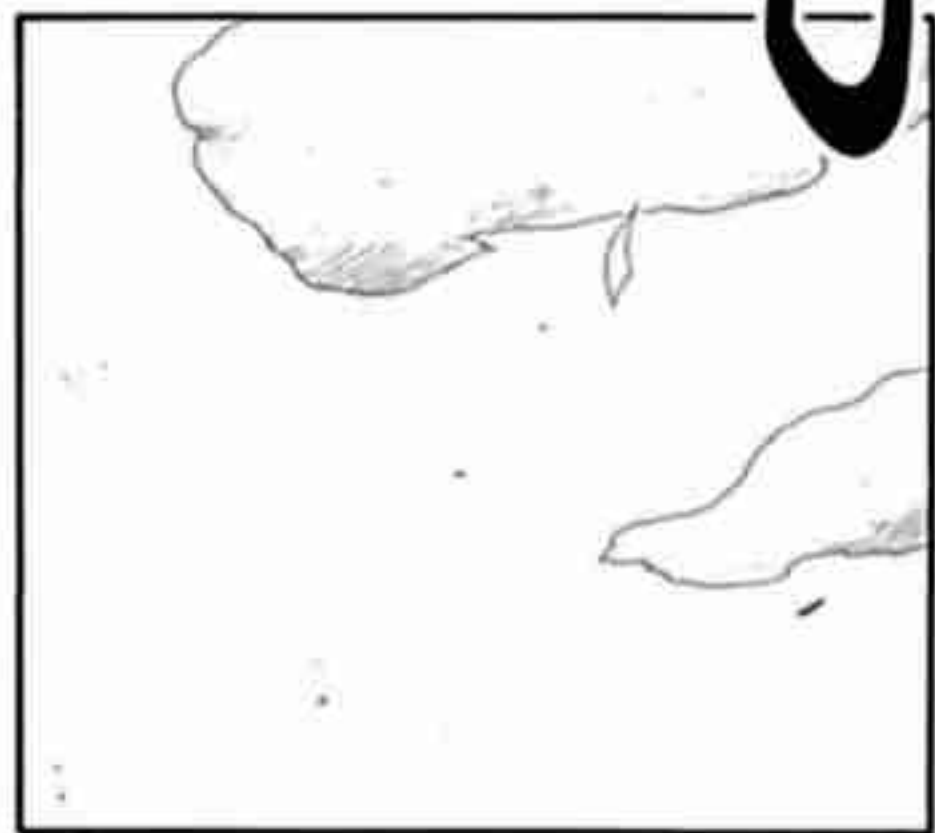
AND...
THOSE
ARE THE
THINGS...
YOU WILL
FACE IN THE
COMING
DAYS...
NARUTO...



...THIS
WAS THE
DOING
OF AN
ACTUAL
GOD...

PLEE
PLEE

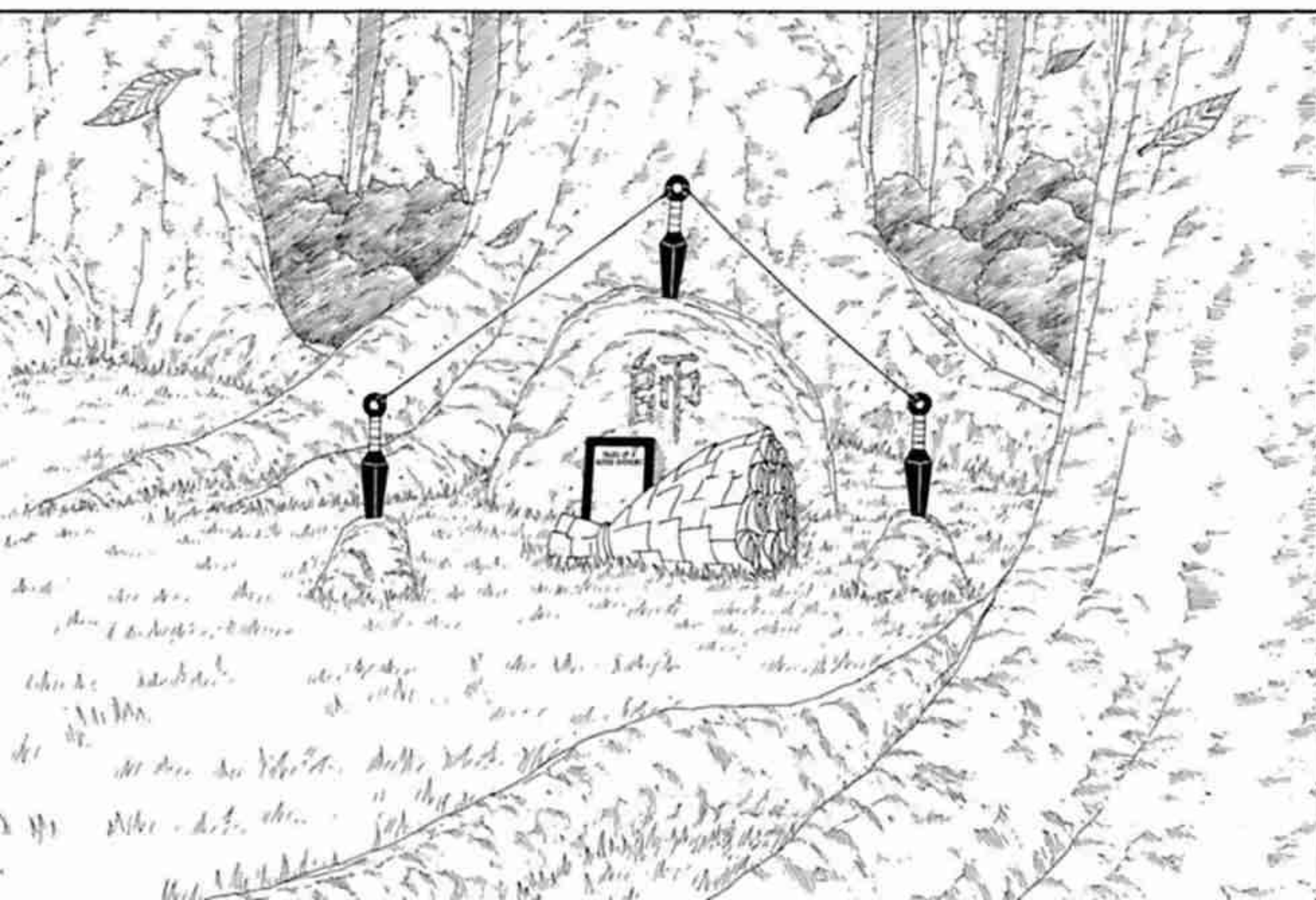
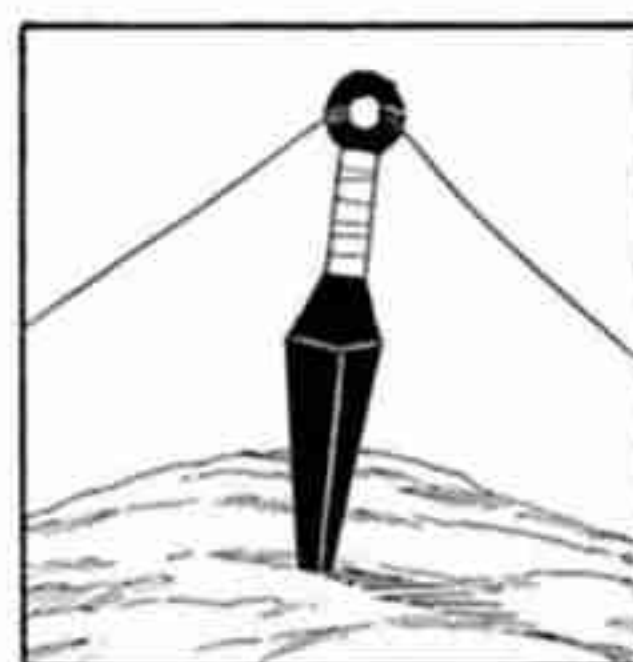
OR...
PERHAPS...











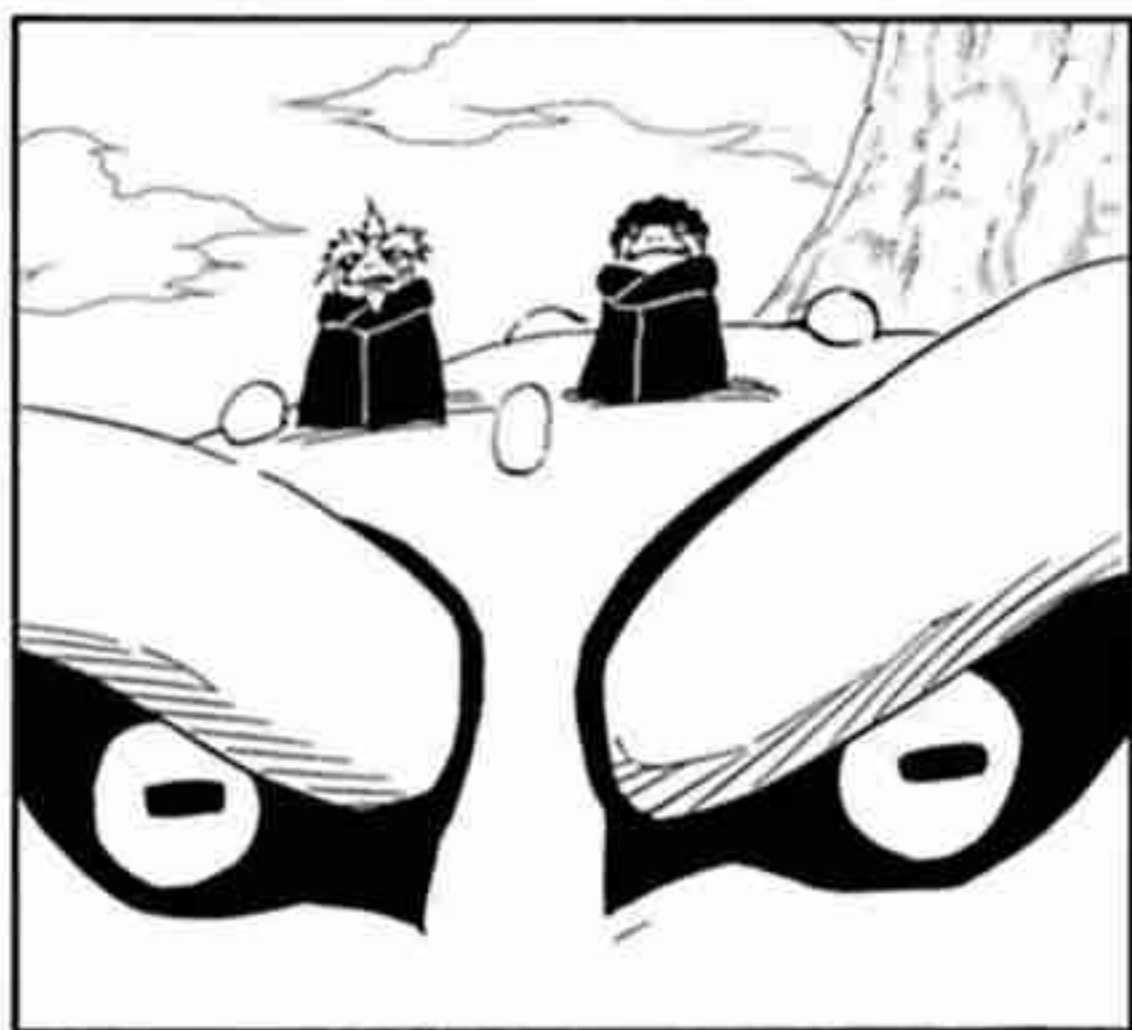
NARUTO



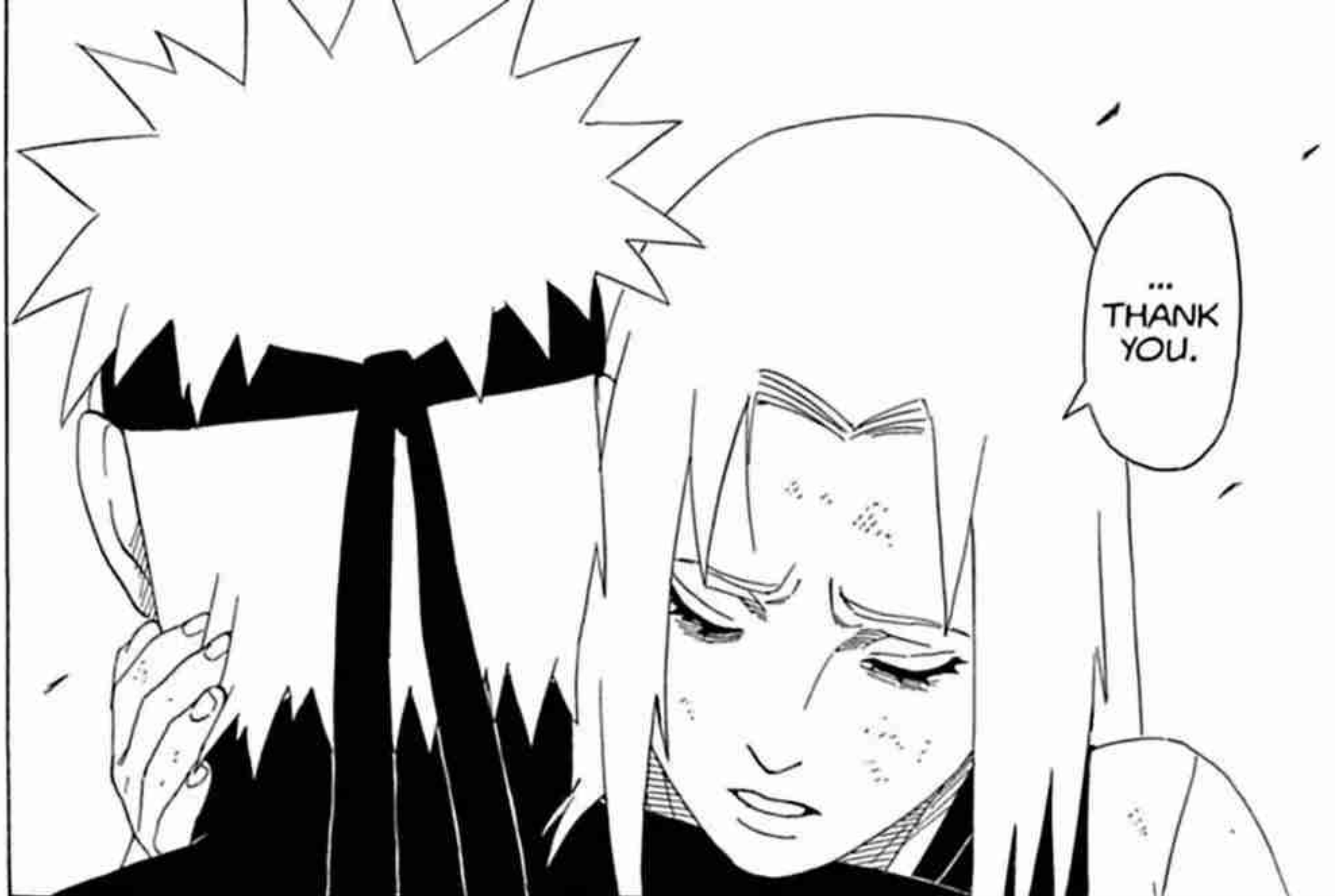
Number 450: The Cheering Village!!





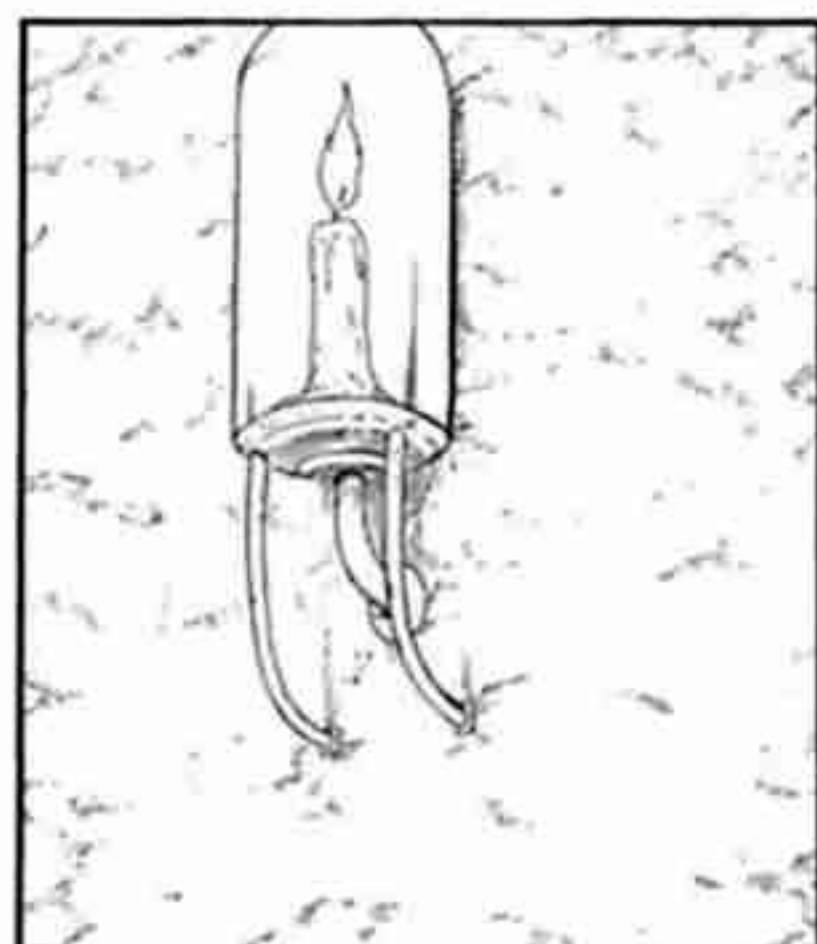






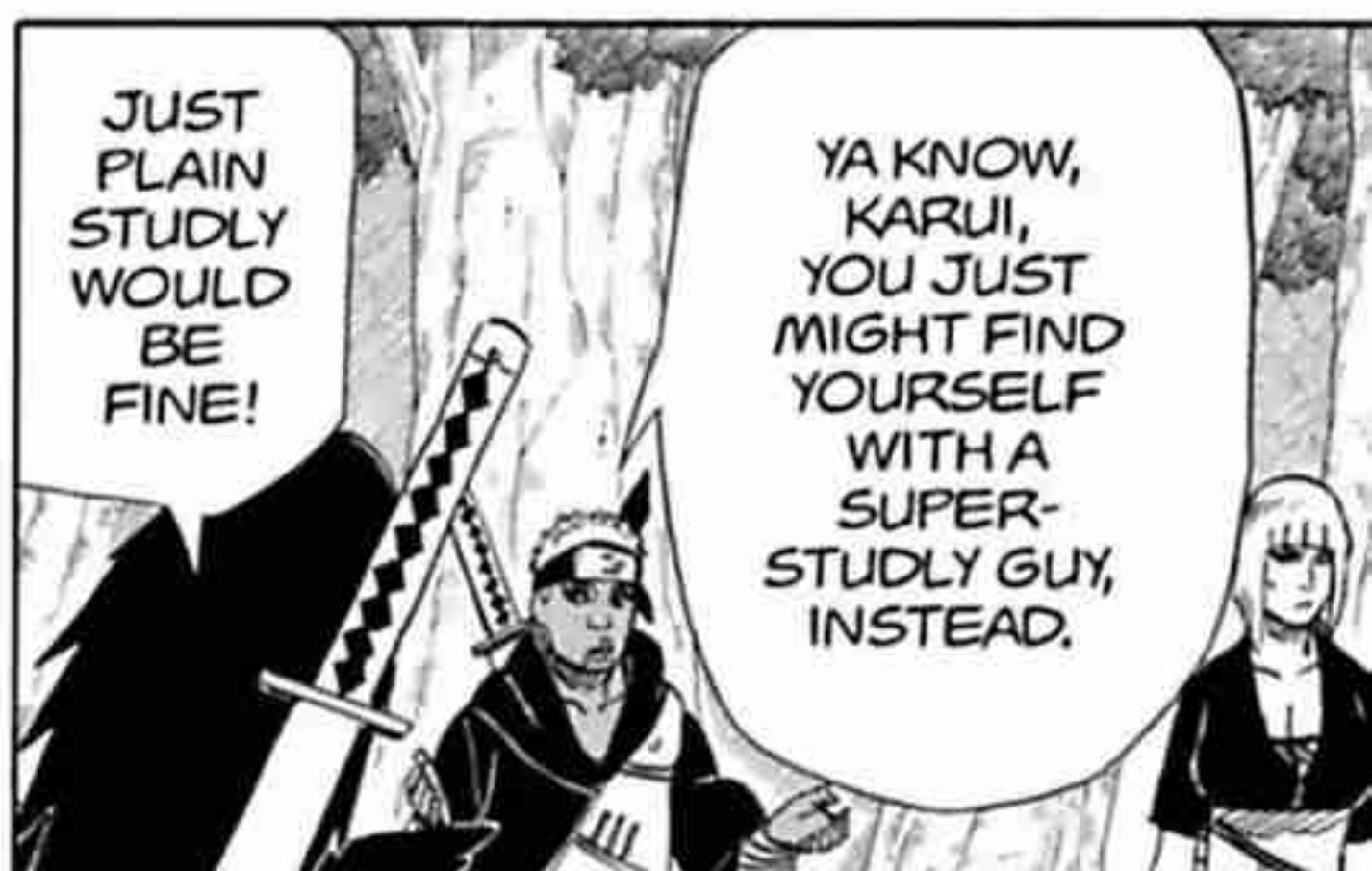
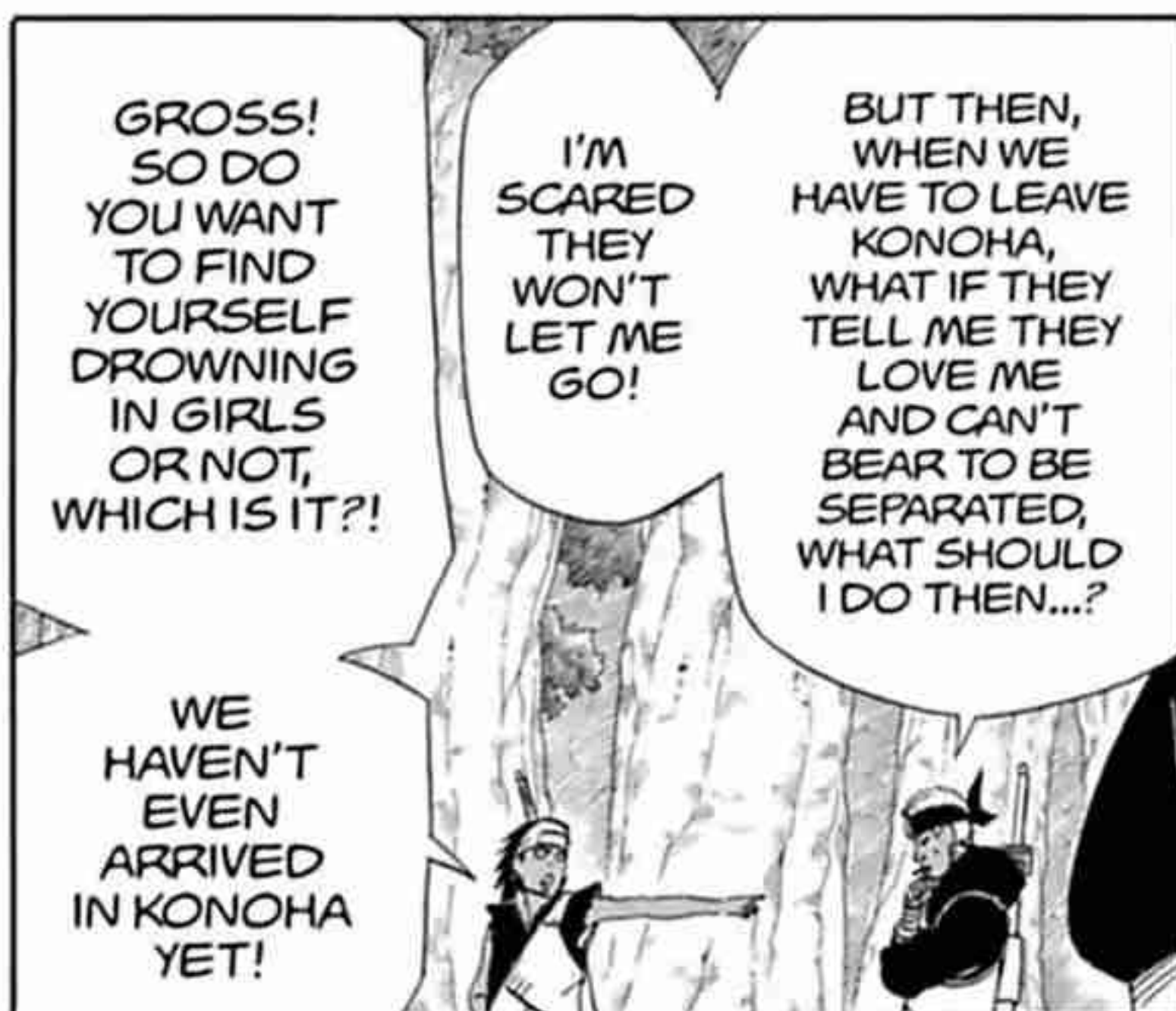




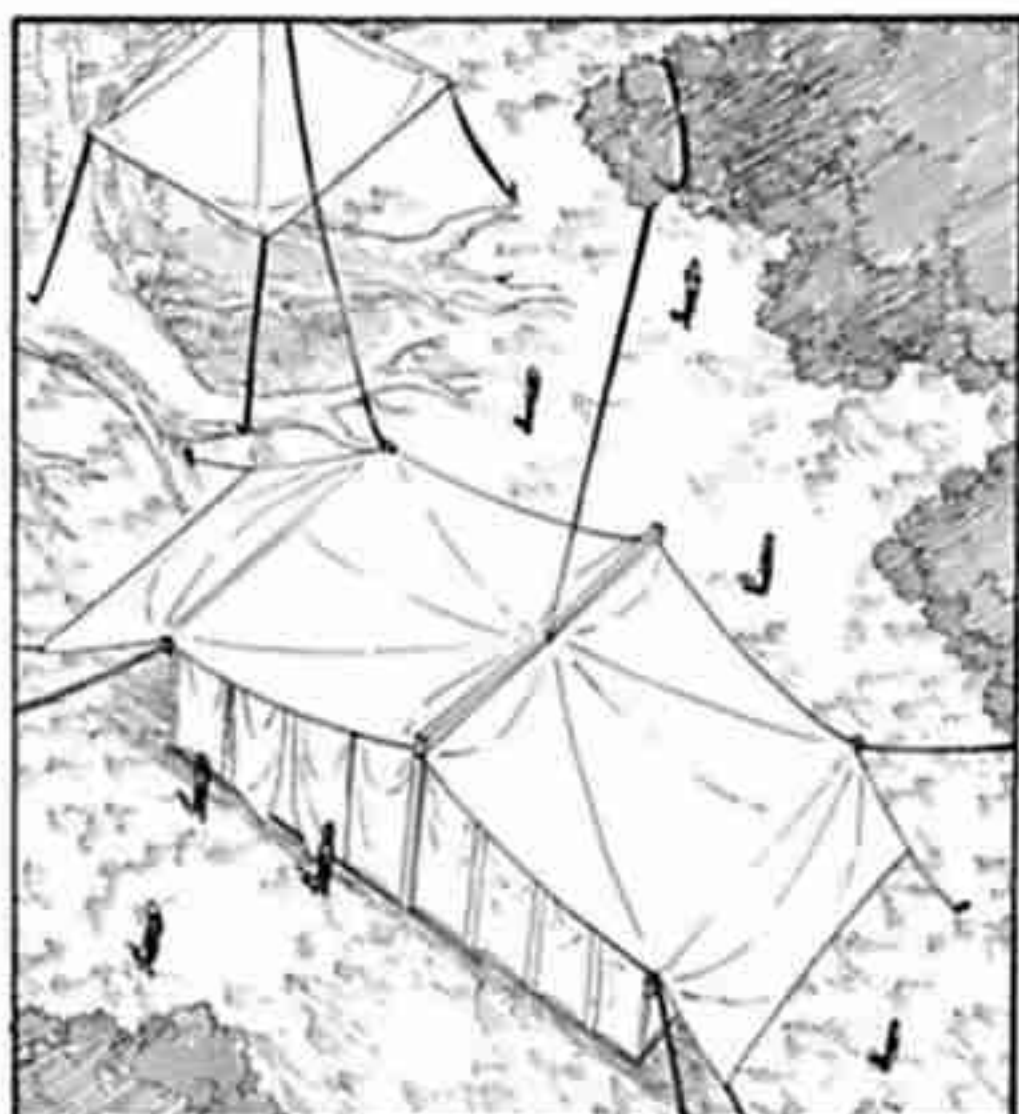
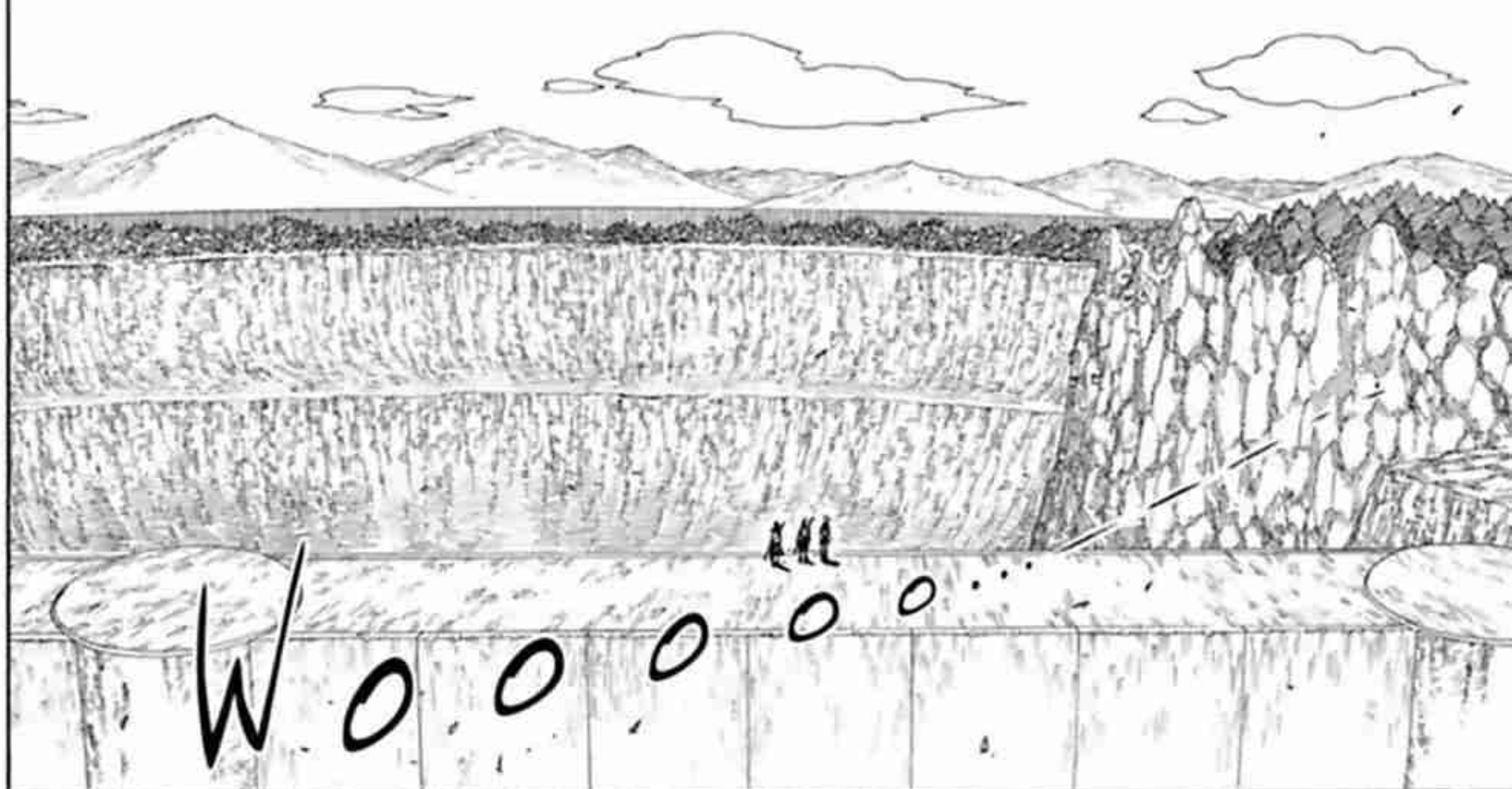


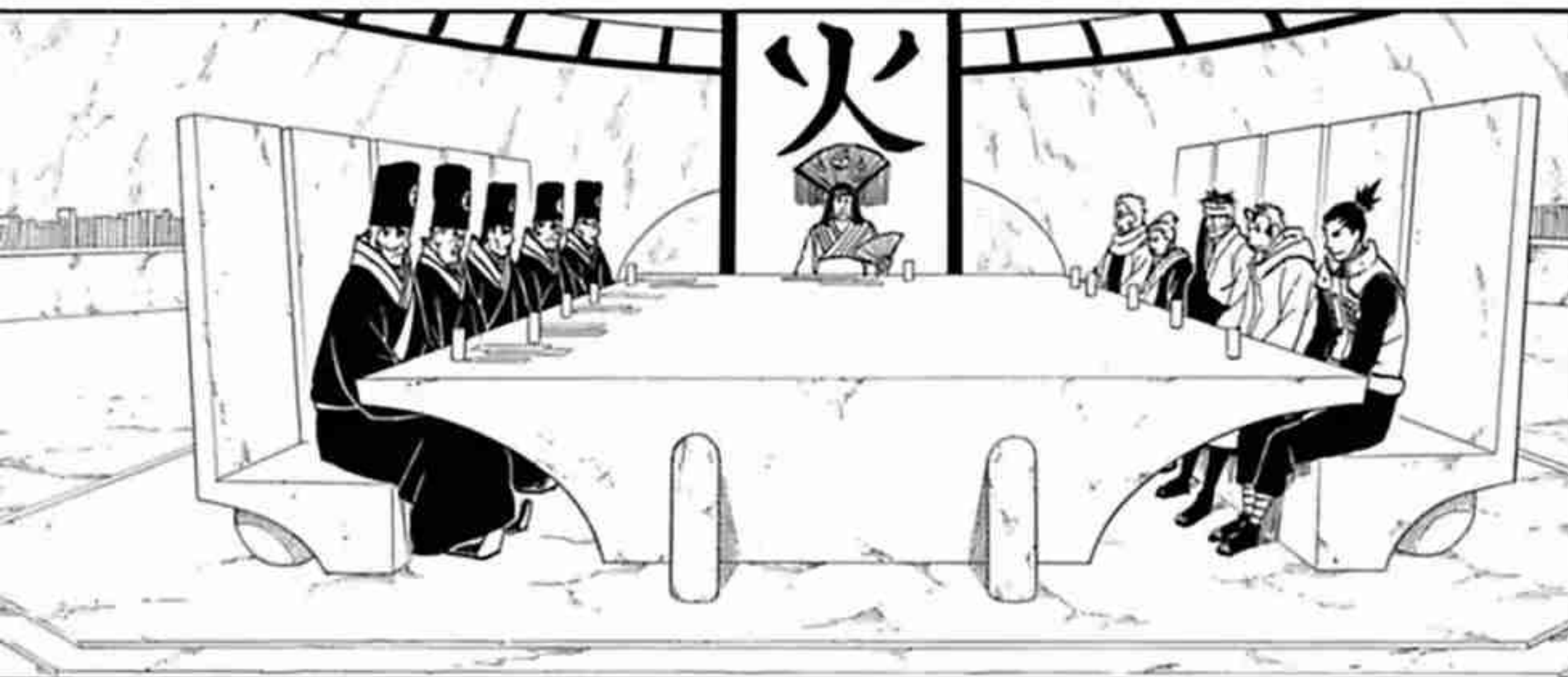
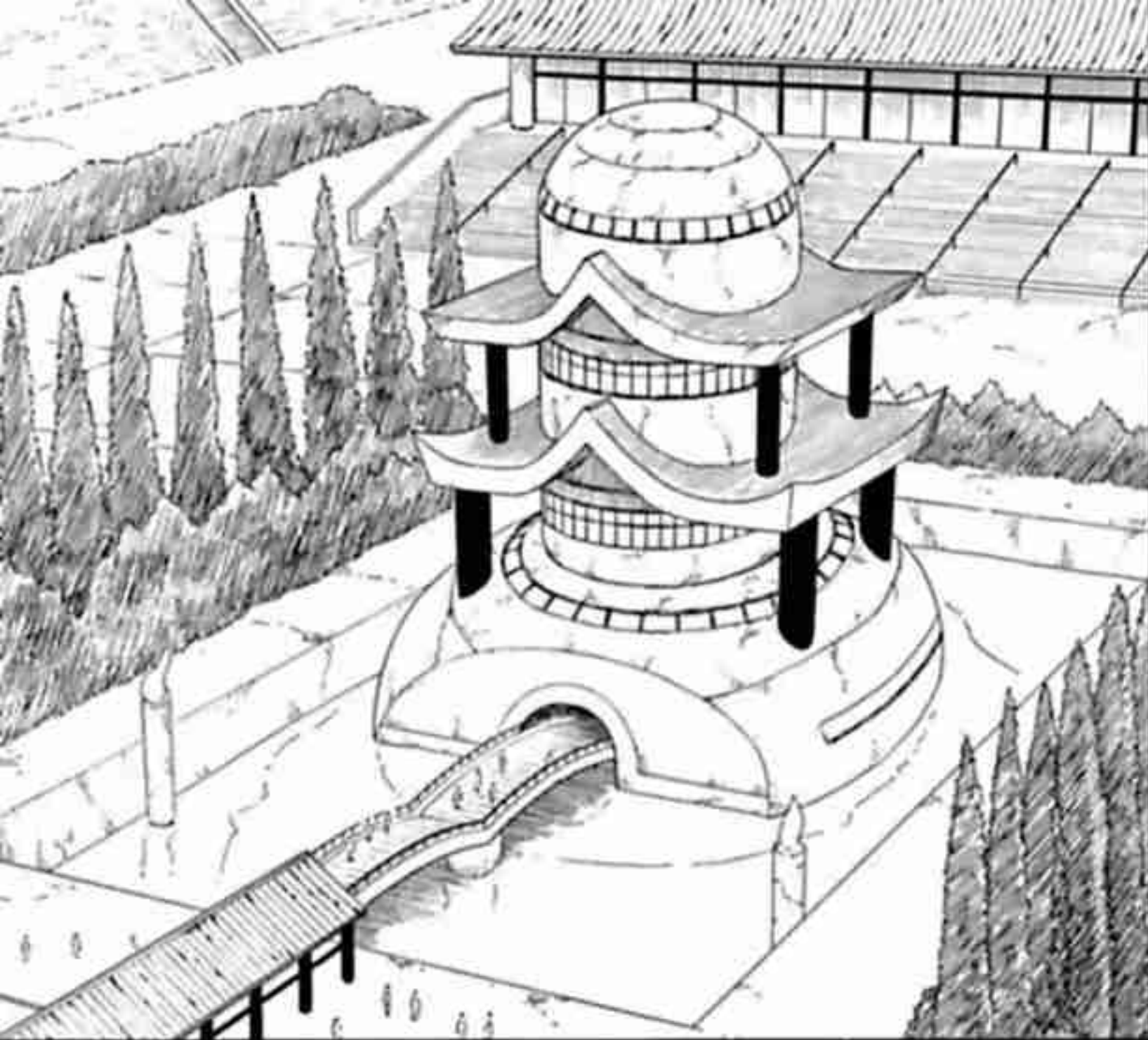












FIRST,
WE'LL RAISE
FUNDS...
THEN ASSESS
THE STRAIN
WITH OTHER
LANDS...

WITH THE
VILLAGE
SO DECI-
MATED...

WE OF THE
LAND OF FIRE
SHALL ALSO
PROVIDE
OUR FULL
SUPPORT IN
REBUILDING
THE
VILLAGE.



WE
INTEND TO
CONTINUE
PURSUING
THE
AKATSUKI
WITH
ASSISTANCE
FROM OUR
ALLIES.



HERE
IT
COMES...
I KNEW
IT.



THE
SELECTION
OF A
NEW
HOKAGE.

THERE
IS A
MORE
PRESSING
MATTER
AT HAND.



WITH THE VILLAGE
DECIMATED AND
NO ESTIMATE
ON WHEN SHE
WILL REAWAKE,
WE ARE UNABLE
TO STEER THE
VILLAGE FORWARD
AS IT STANDS...

...PLUS,
SHE IS THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALLOWING
KONOKA TO BE
DESTROYED.



LORD
DAIMYO...

...TSUNADE
REMAINS
IN A
COMATOSE
STATE.



CAN WE
NOT WAIT
FOR
TSUNADE
TO
RECOVER?



IN
THAT
CASE,
I...

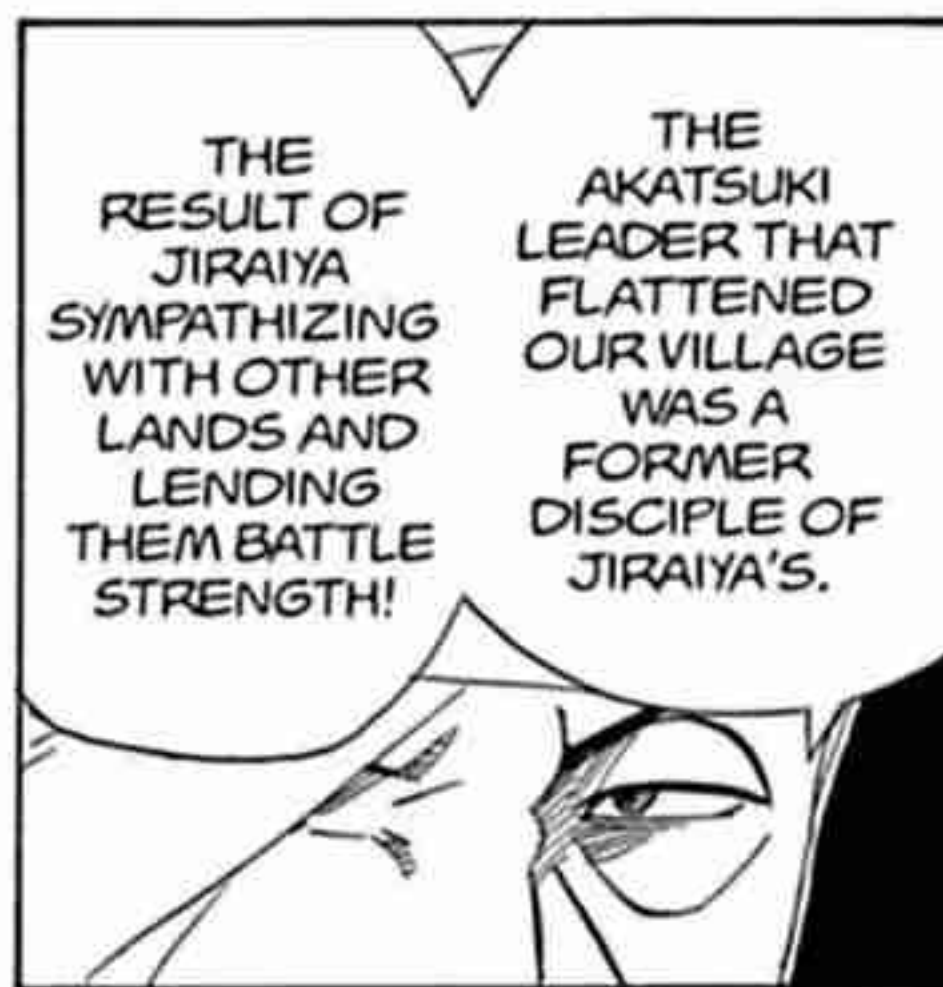


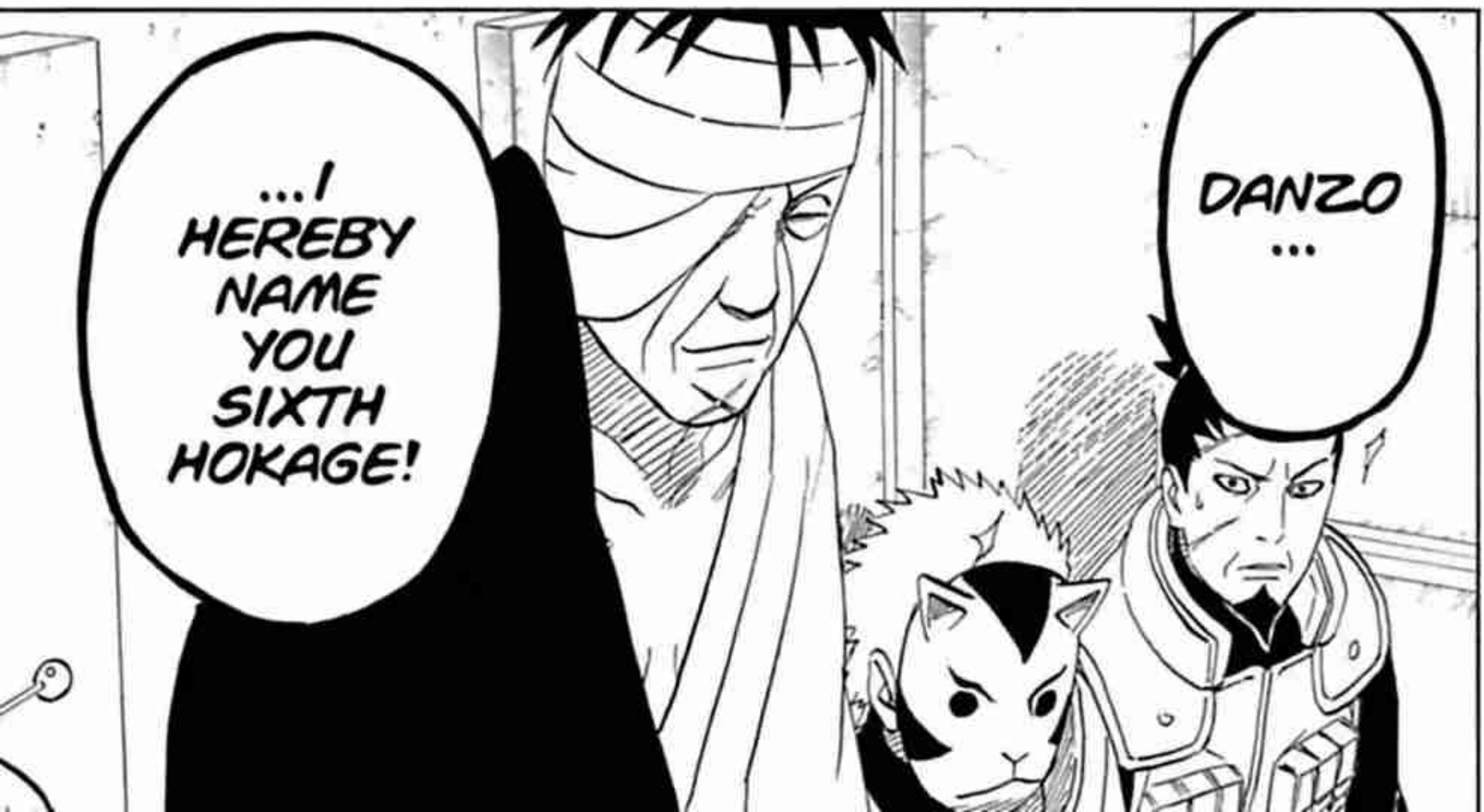
...SO
WHO
ELSE IS
THERE?

...I LIKED
HIM VERY
MUCH, BUT
HE IS NO
LONGER
AMONG US.

I HAD
REALLY
HOPED
JIRAIYA
WOULD
FOLLOW
NEXT...







NARUTO



Number 451: Sasuke's Disposal!!





SUPER-LONG TIME NO SEE, NARUTO! SAKURA!



I'M THE ONE WHO NEEDS CHEERING UP... NARUTO.



GAH... WHAT AM I ENCOURAGING HIM FOR?

IT'S OKAY. LADY TSUNADE WILL WAKE UP SOON!

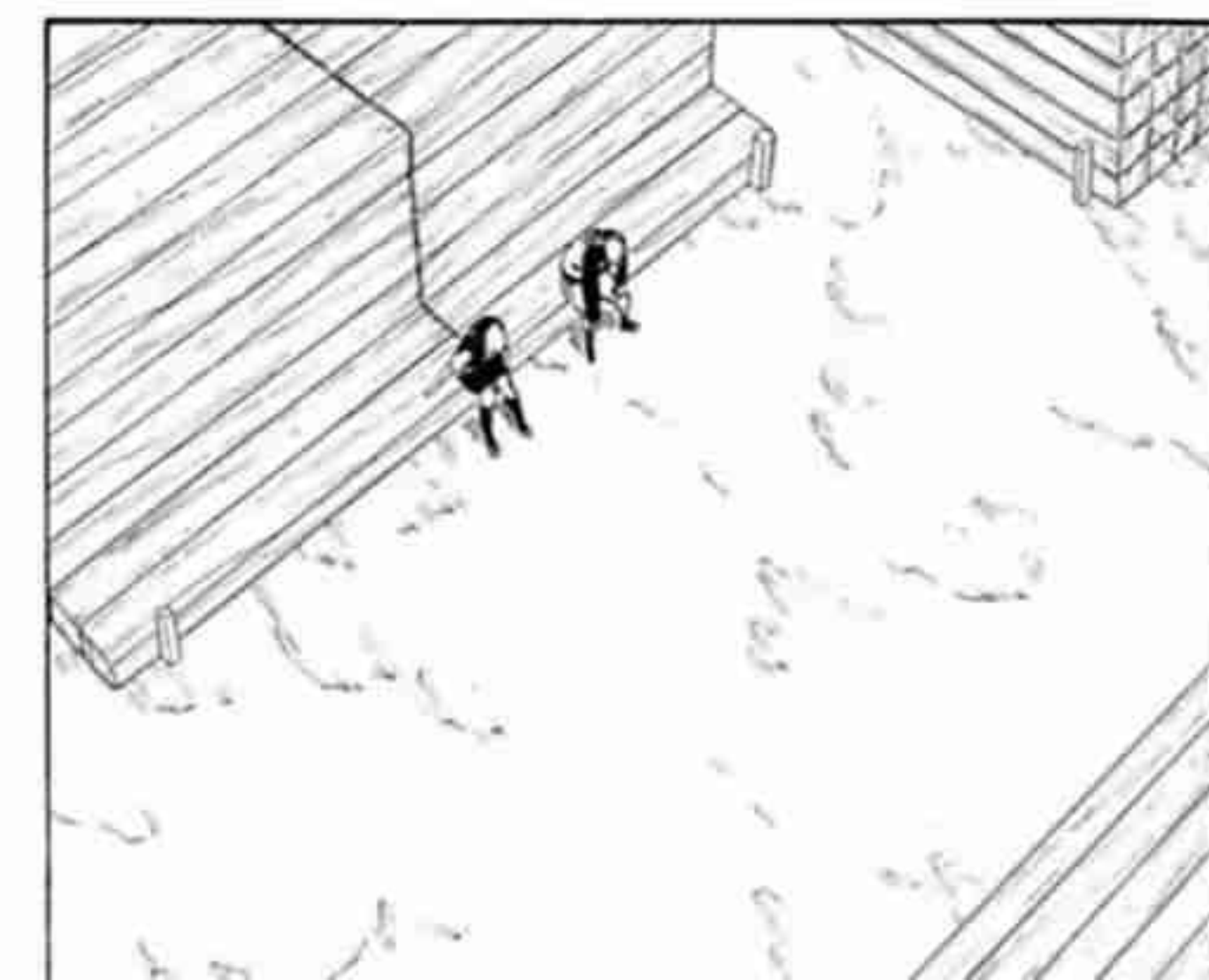
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO TELL GRANNY TSUNADE...

I MEAN, SHE'S REALLY STRONG... AND SHE'S HOKAGE! DON'T WORRY!



KONOHA WILL BE REBUILT IN NO TIME!

WOOHOO!!

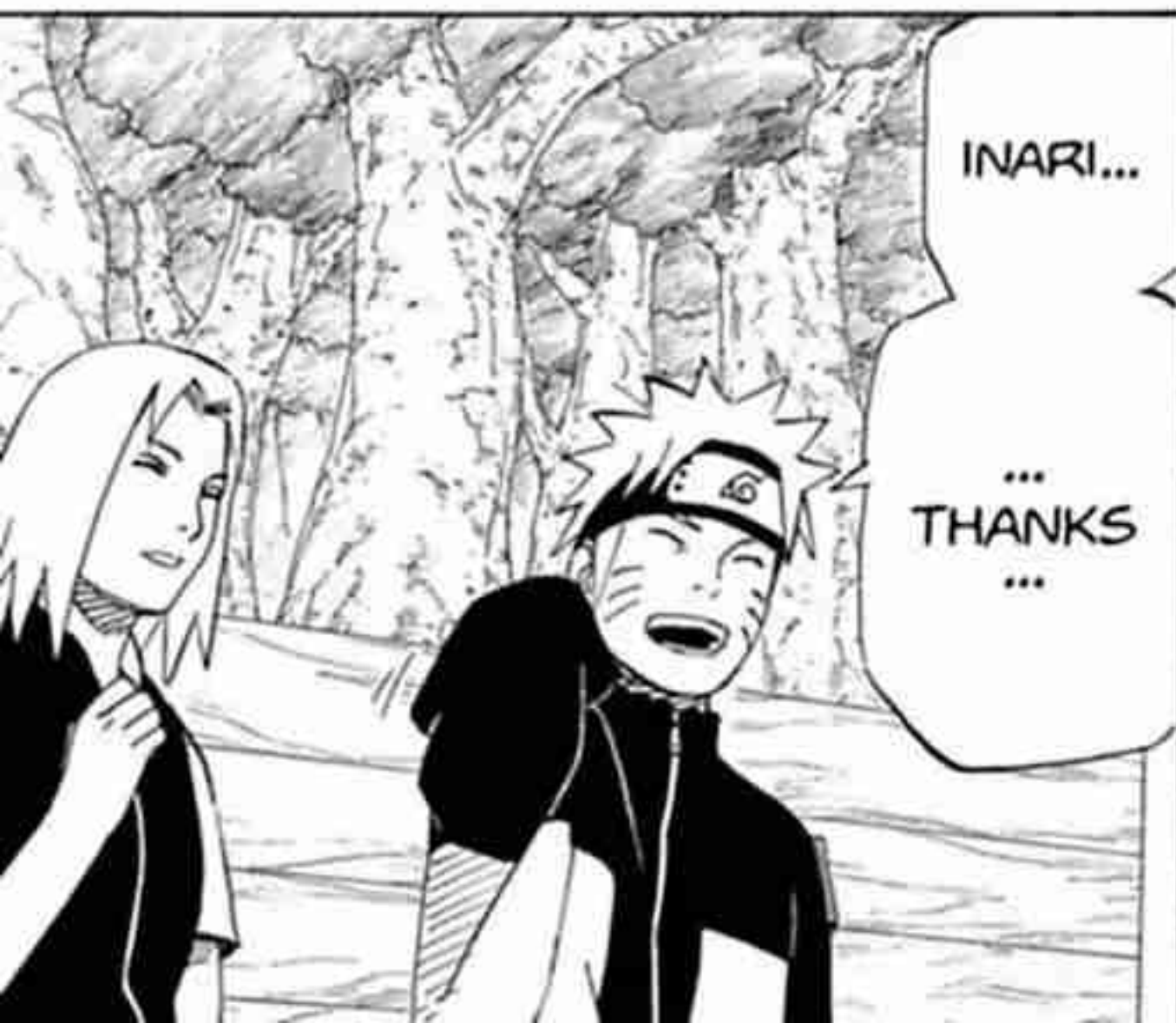


EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...

FWUMP





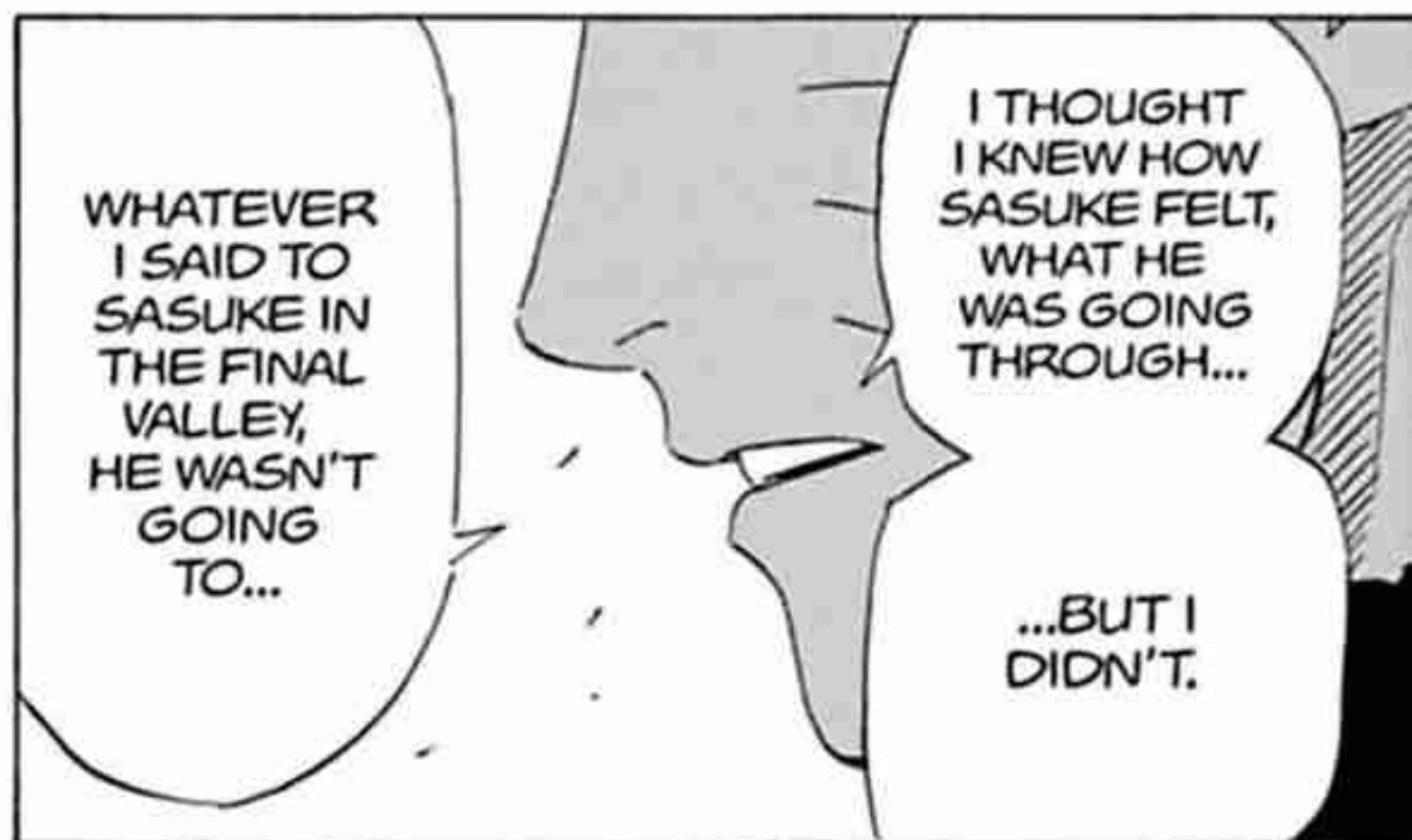












...BUT
NEXT TIME,
I WANT TO
HAVE A
PROPER
FIGHT
WITH HIM...

IT'S
PROBABLY
GOING
TO HURT
REALLY
BAD...

...OR
EVEN
ARGUE
WITH
EACH
OTHER
AGAIN.

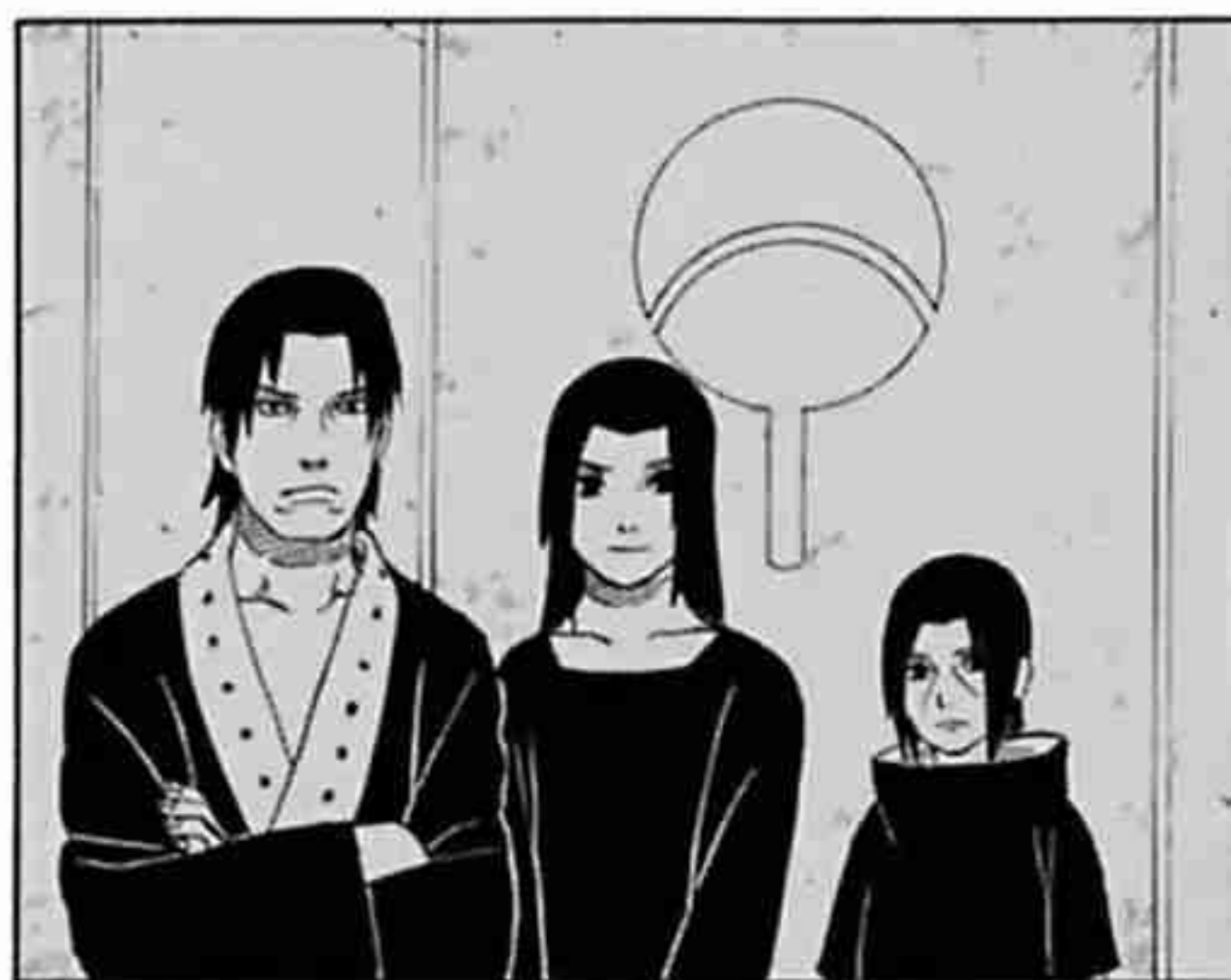
WITHOUT
UNDER-
STANDING
SASUKE'S PAIN,
THERE'S
NO WAY
WE COULD
EVER LAUGH
TOGETHER.

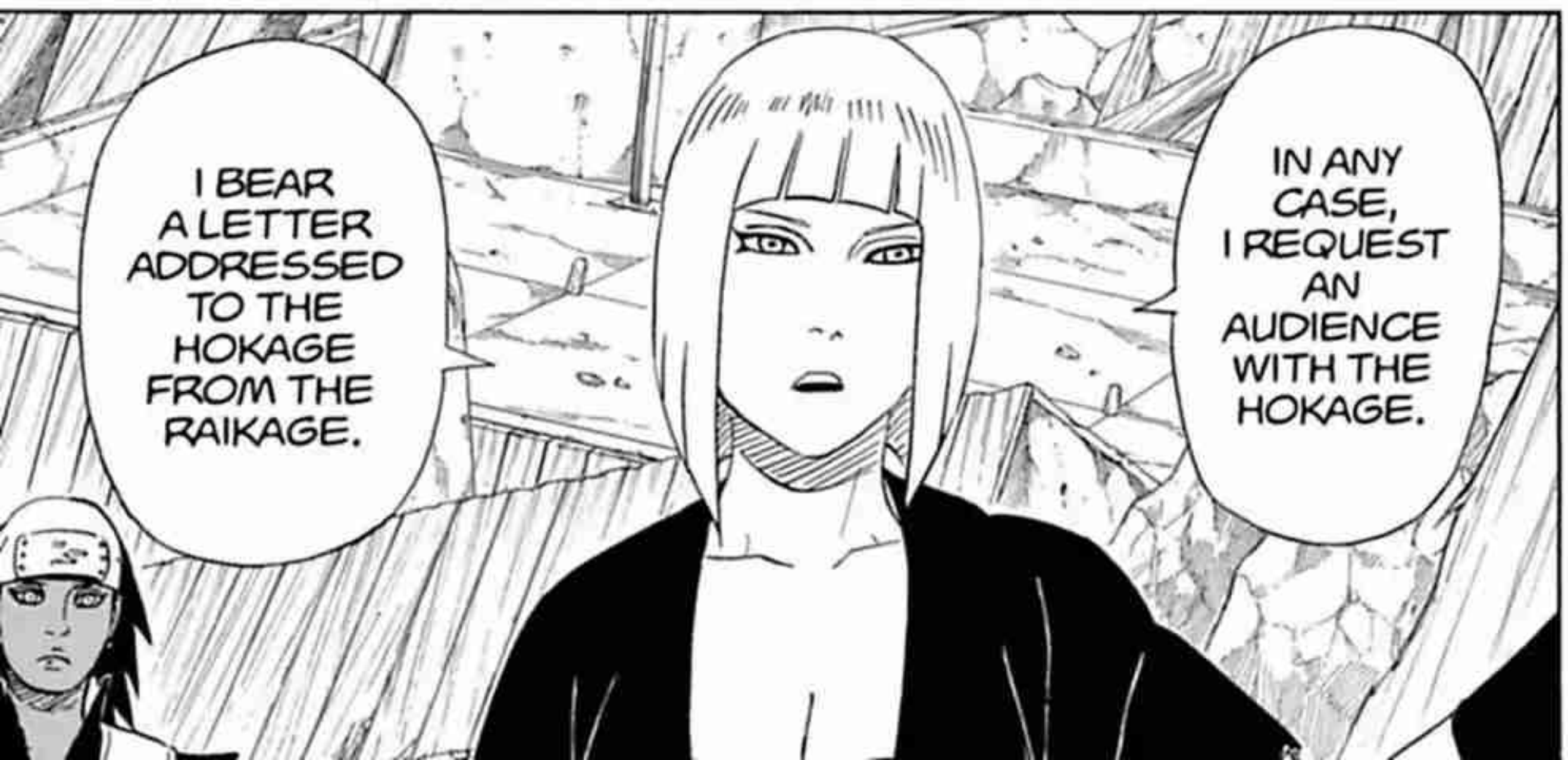
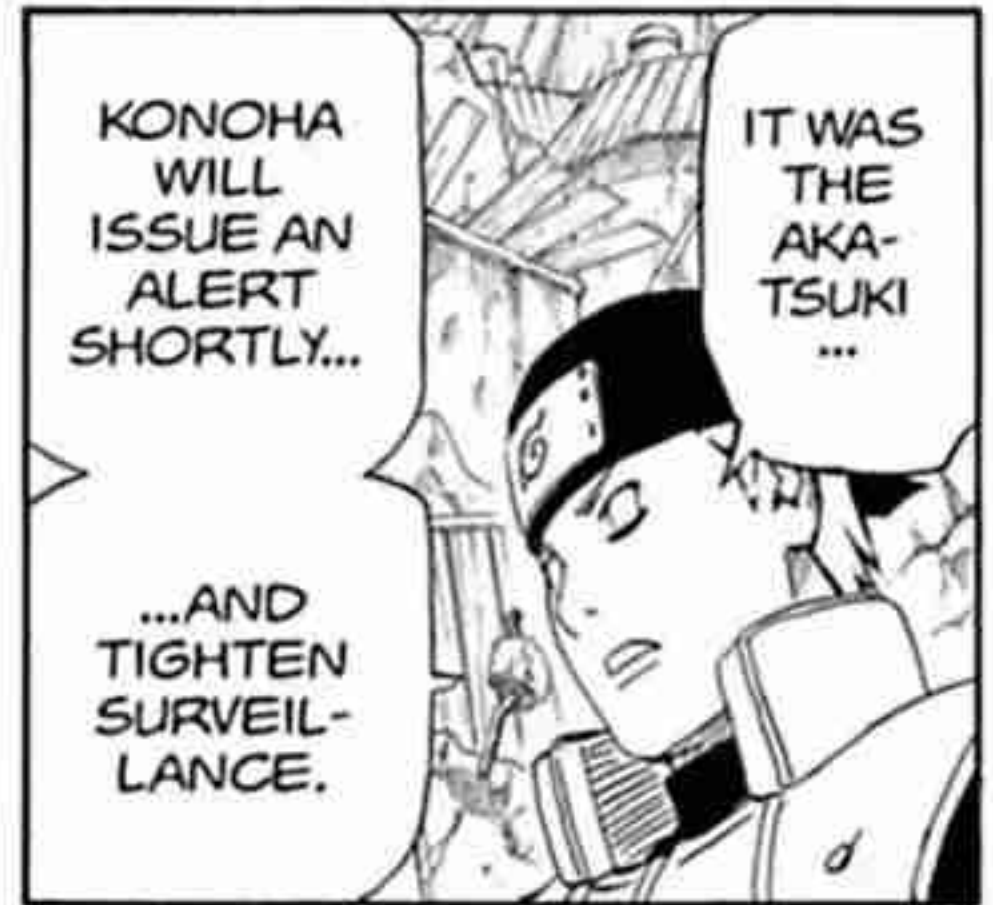


...CELL
NUMBER
SEVEN,
INCLUDING
SASUKE,
CAN ALL
LAUGH
TOGETHER
LIKE WE
USED TO!!

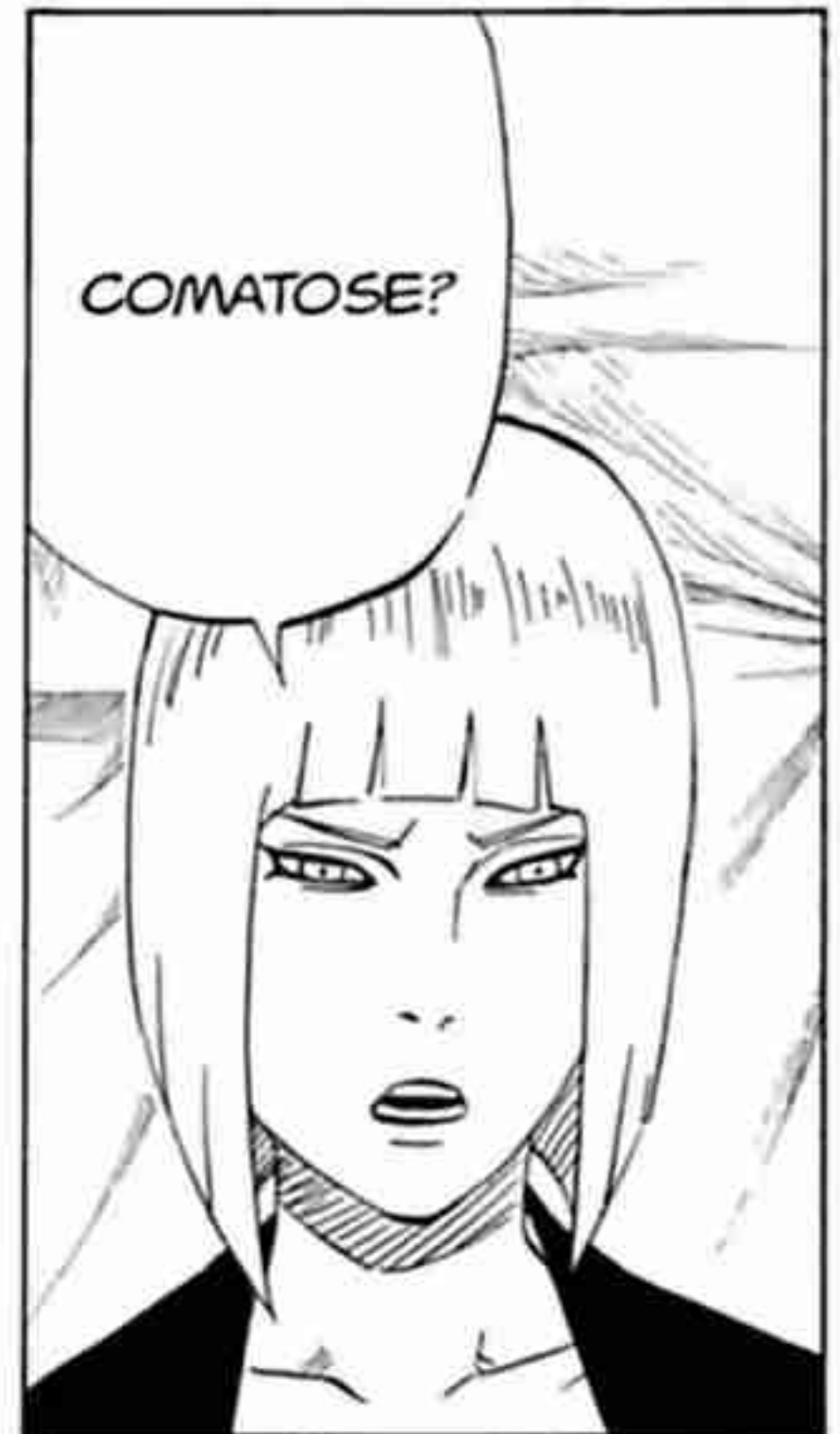
AND
THEN,
SOME-
DAY...









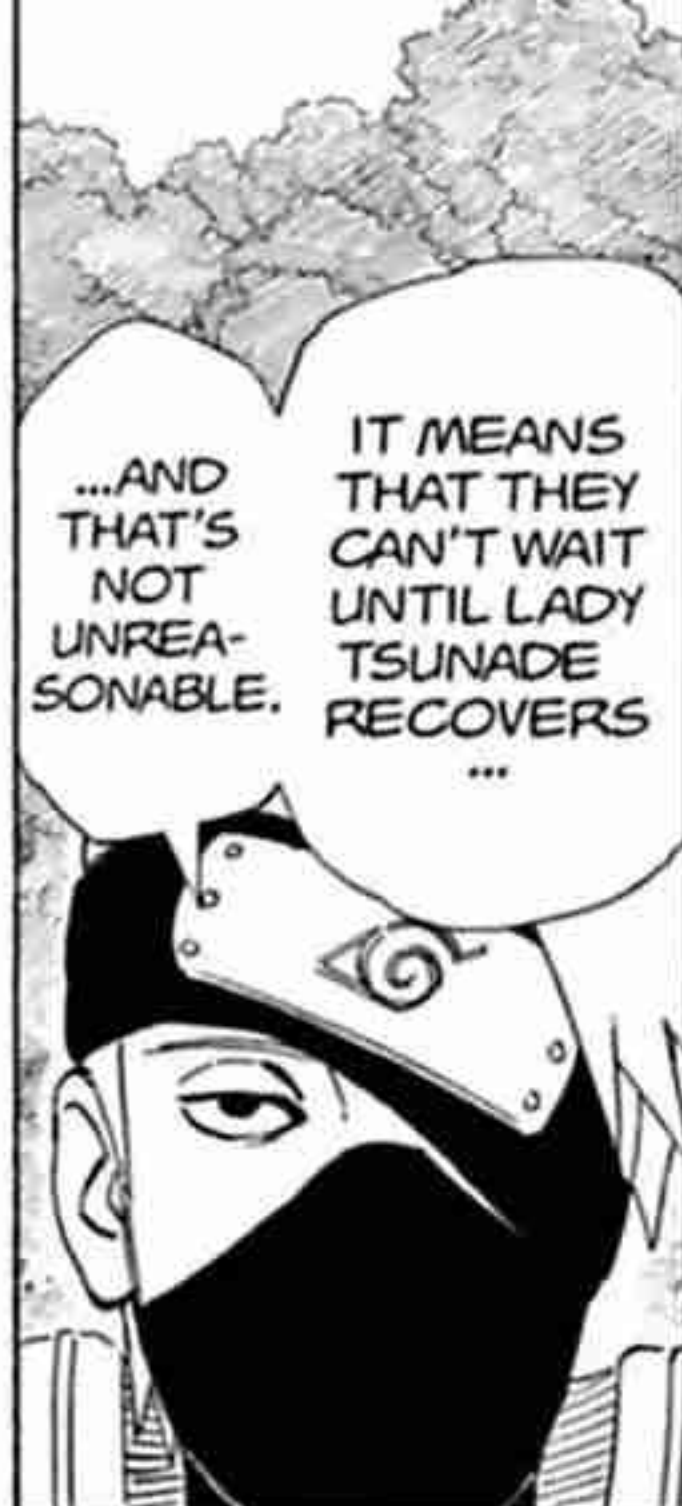




(TO LORD HOKAGE
FROM RAIKAGE)









THIS IS
THE ONE
TIME
YOU NEED
TO STAY
COOL AND
COLLECTED.

CALM
DOWN,
BOTH
OF YOU.

I'LL
GO
TOO.

Shup



AND
ABOUT
SASUKE
TOO!

...I
CAN'T
STAY
SILENT
ANY
LONGER!

BUT
HOW DARE
THEY
DECIDE
THIS WHEN
LADY
TSUNADE'S
NOT EVEN
CON-
SCIOUS!



I SAID
WAIT!



HOW
ARE WE
SUP-
POSED
TO STAY
COOL?!

I'M NOT
LETTING
THEM GO
AFTER
SASUKE!



WE'RE
JUST GOING
TO ASK
HIM TO
CHANGE HIS
DECISION
ABOUT
SASUKE!

WE
WON'T
BE
VIOLENT!



SO YOU
GO SEE
HIM.
THEN
WHAT?

DANZO'S
ALREADY
ANTICIPATED
YOUR
EXACT
REACTION.



IT MAY BE
JUST THE LORDS'
APPOINTMENT,
WITHOUT
THE JONIN
ASSEMBLY'S
VOTE OF
CONFIDENCE YET,
BUT DANZO IS
HOKAGE.

PLAY
THIS WRONG,
YOU'LL BE
THROWN IN
PRISON.

YOU'RE
REALLY
JUST
GOING
TO STOP
WITH HIS
SASUKE
DECISION?



H-HEY...
WHOA...



ME
TOO!

TAK

THWAP

I
DON'T
CARE!
I'M
GOING!



...



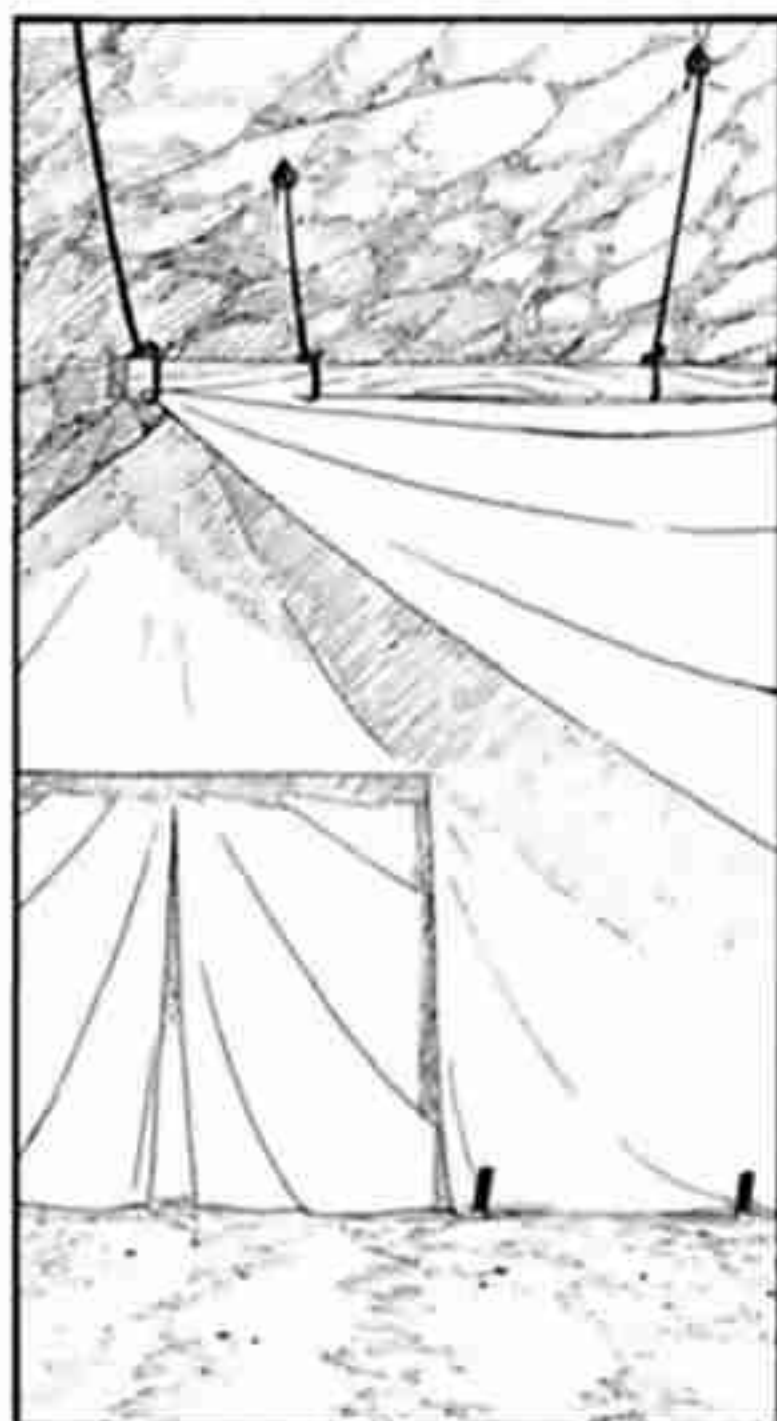
DON'T
MAKE
A
SCENE
RIGHT
NOW.

AND THEN
YOU WON'T
BE ABLE
TO GO
LOOK FOR
SASUKE...



...DANZO WANTS
TO CONFINED YOU
IN THE VILLAGE,
SO ANY ACTING
UP ON YOUR PART
WILL JUST PLAY
RIGHT INTO HIS
HANDS.

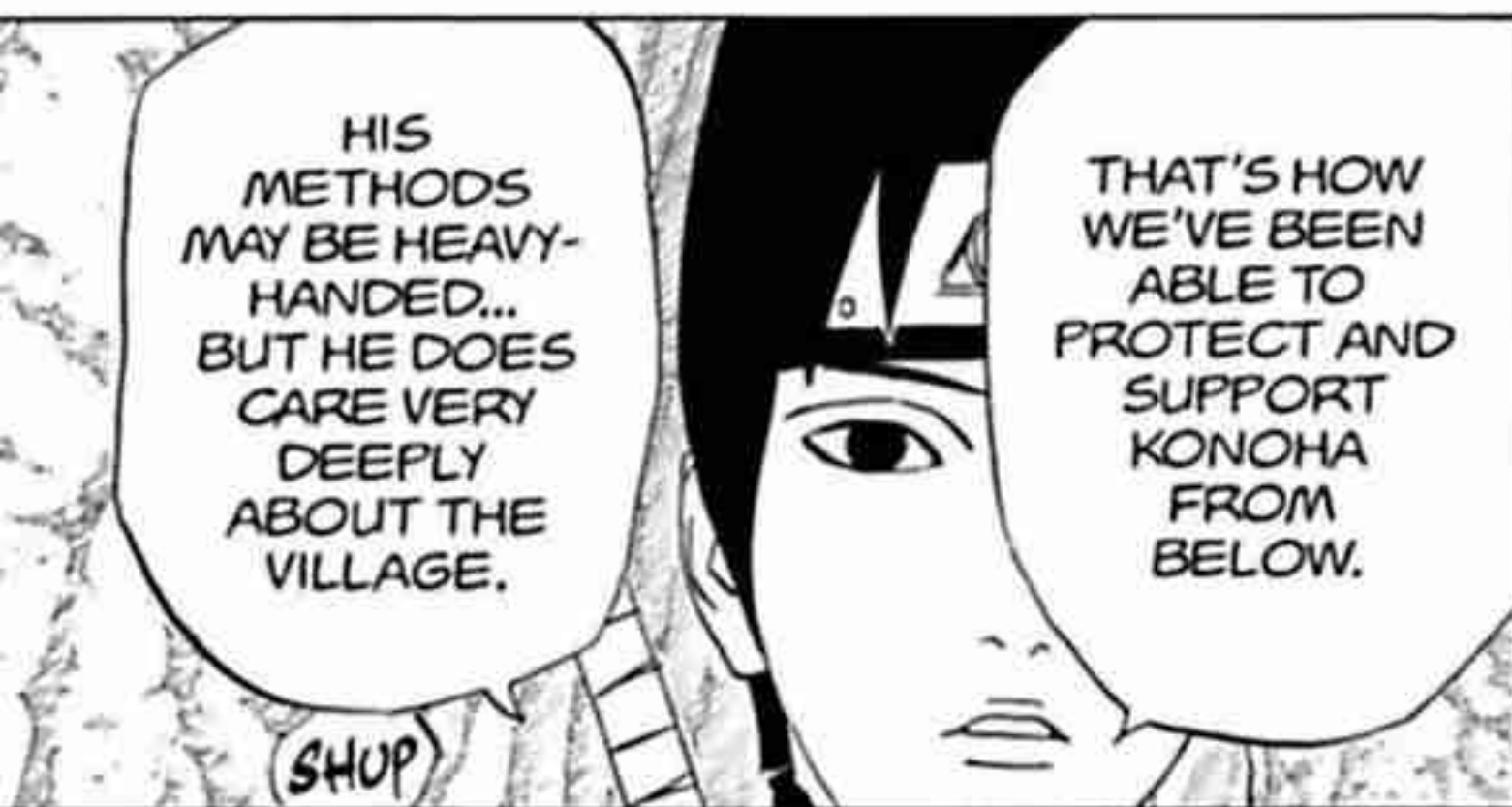
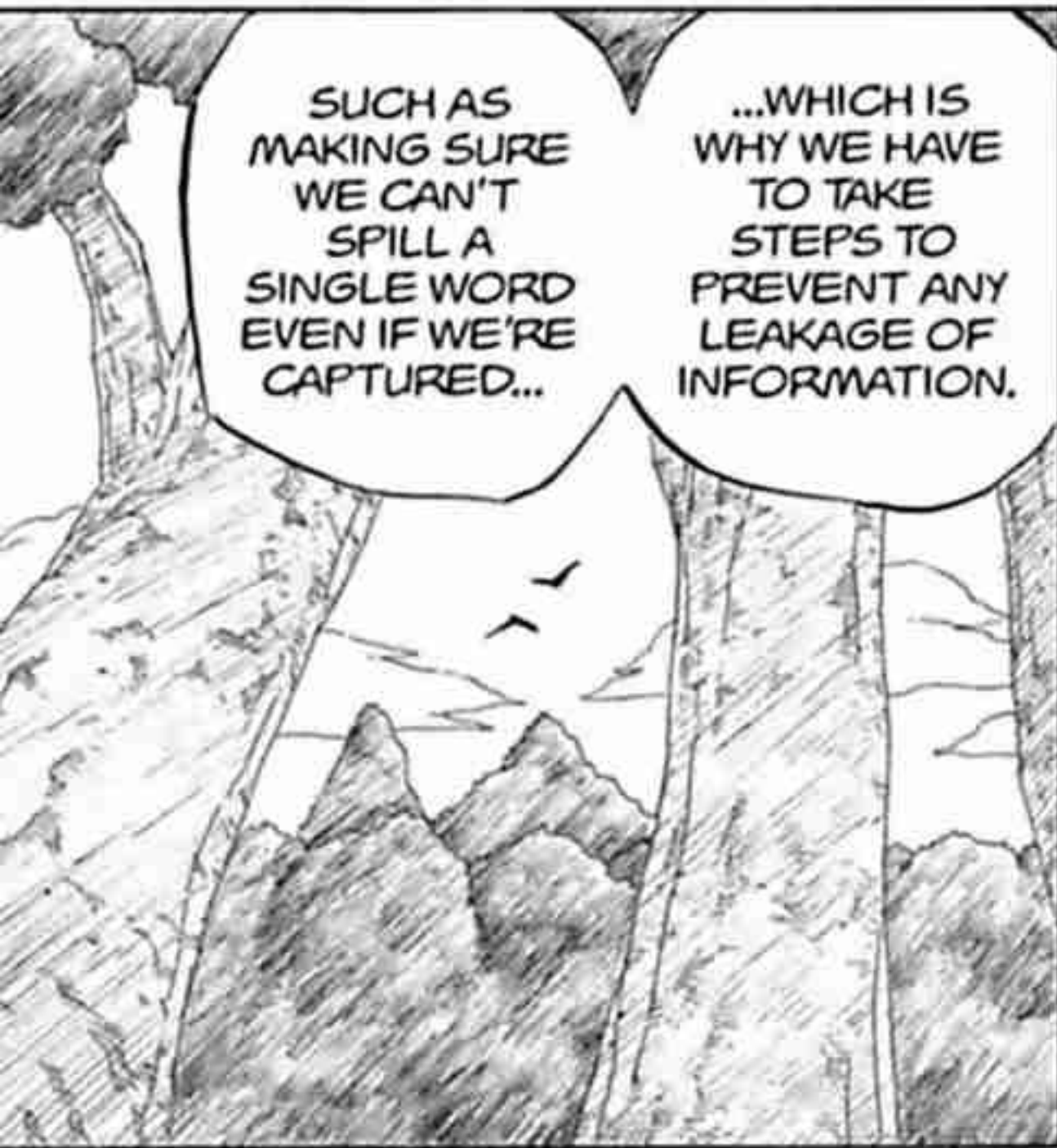
NARUTO,
DON'T
FORGET
THAT YOU
HOST NINE
TAILS...











SHUP

!!

SO
TELL US
ALL
ABOUT
THIS
SASUKE,
EH.

KLAK

SINCE
YOU
SEEM
TO BE
SUCH
GOOD
FRIENDS
WITH
HIM!



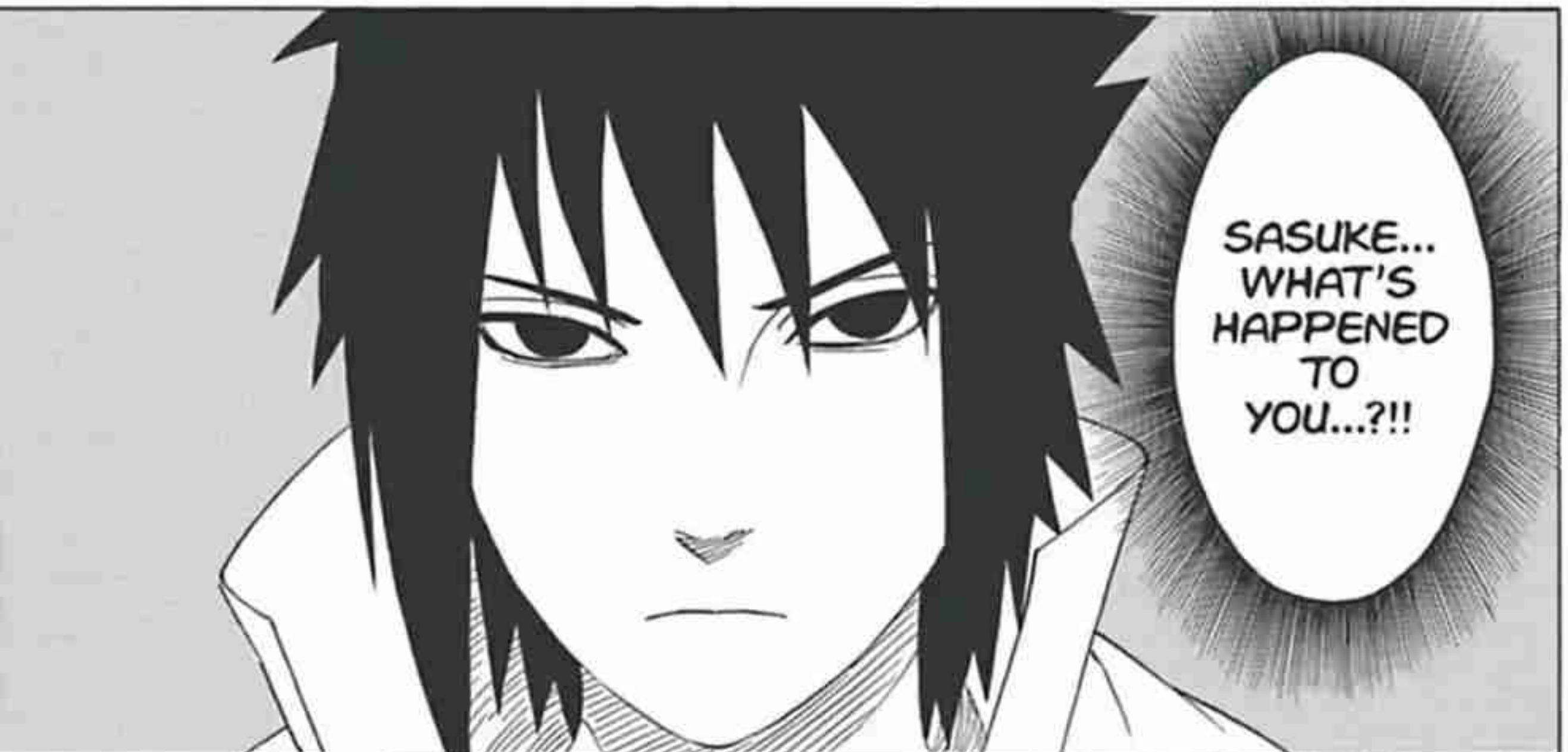






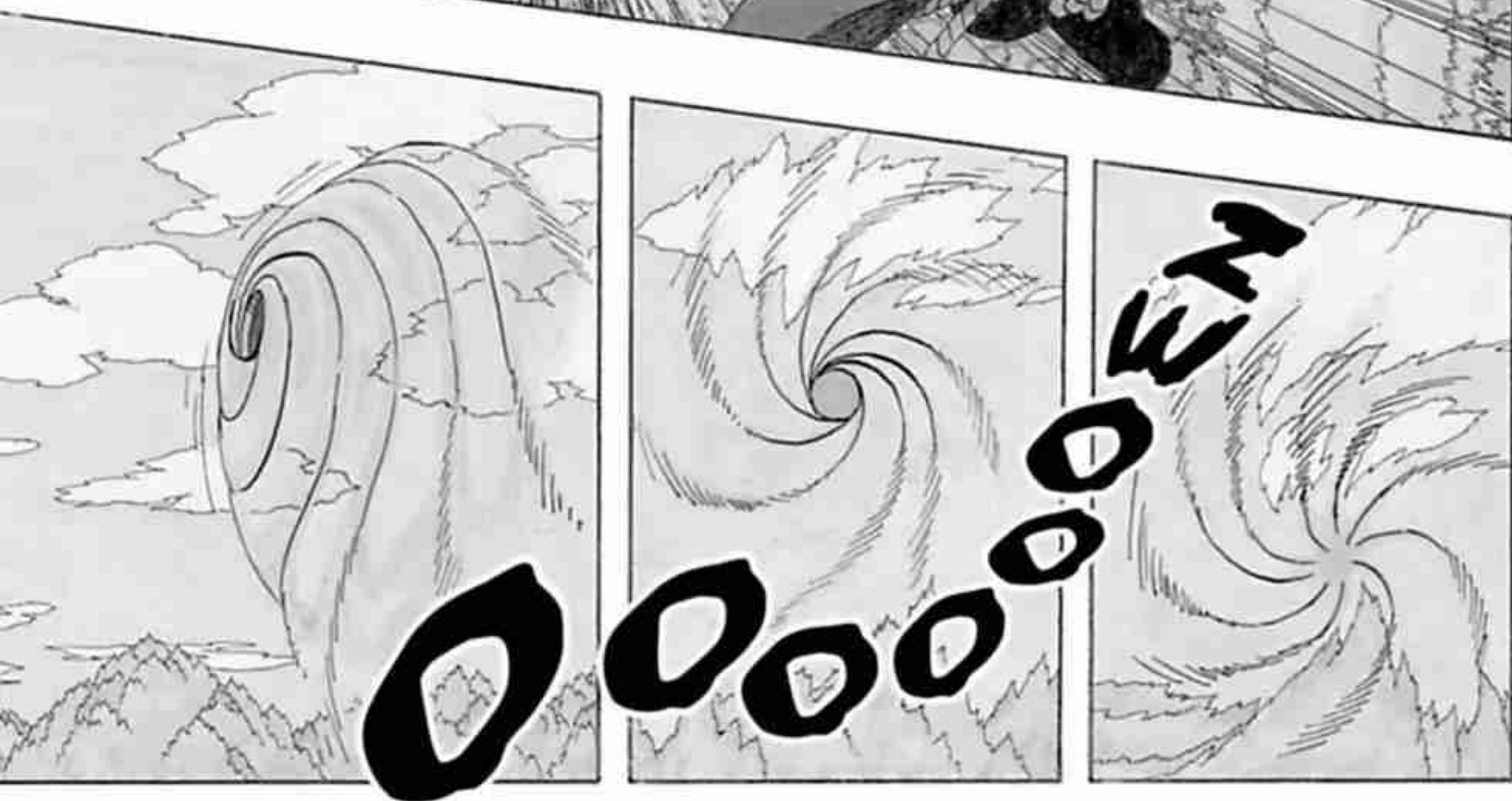






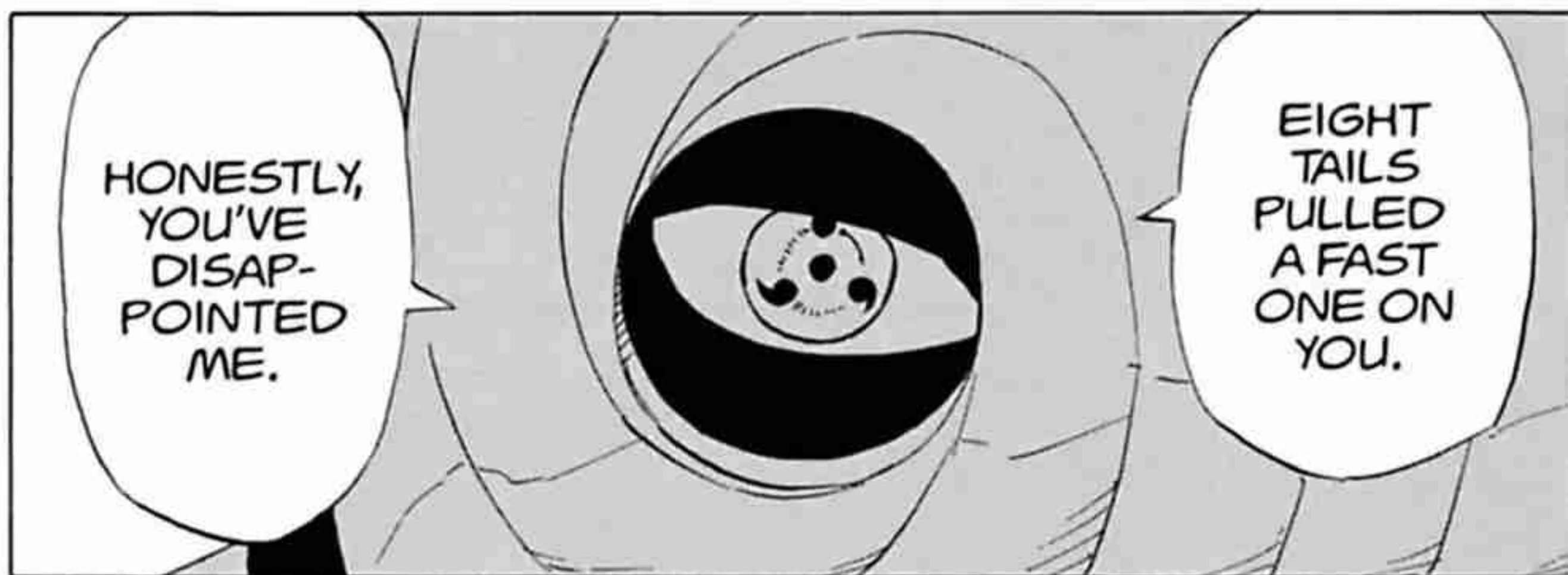
NARUTO

Number 453: Gokage Summit's Eye!!

















HE'S
BECOME
THE NEW
HOKAGE.

THAT'S RIGHT,
ONE OF THE
KONOHA ELDERS
WHO BACKED
YOUR OLDER
BROTHER INTO
A CORNER.



...IS
HOKAGE
...?

DANZO...



AND THANKS
TO BOTH
YOU AND PAIN
SHOWING
OFF,
EVEN THE
GOKAGE
SEEM TO
HAVE GONE
ON THE
MOVE.

MY
UNDERLING
PAIN DE-
STROYED
KONOHA.



...WHAT
IN THE
WORLD
HAPPENED
IN
KONOHA
?!



ALLOW
ME TO
EXPLAIN.

THEY ARE
CONVEN-
ING A
GOKAGE
SUMMIT
CONFER-
ENCE.



THE FIVE
SHADOWS,
HUH...





UNH...
UNH...



AND HIS FACE
MATCHES
WHAT
APPEARS
ON THE
LIST.

YEAH!
THEY
SAW
THE
UCHIHA
CREST!

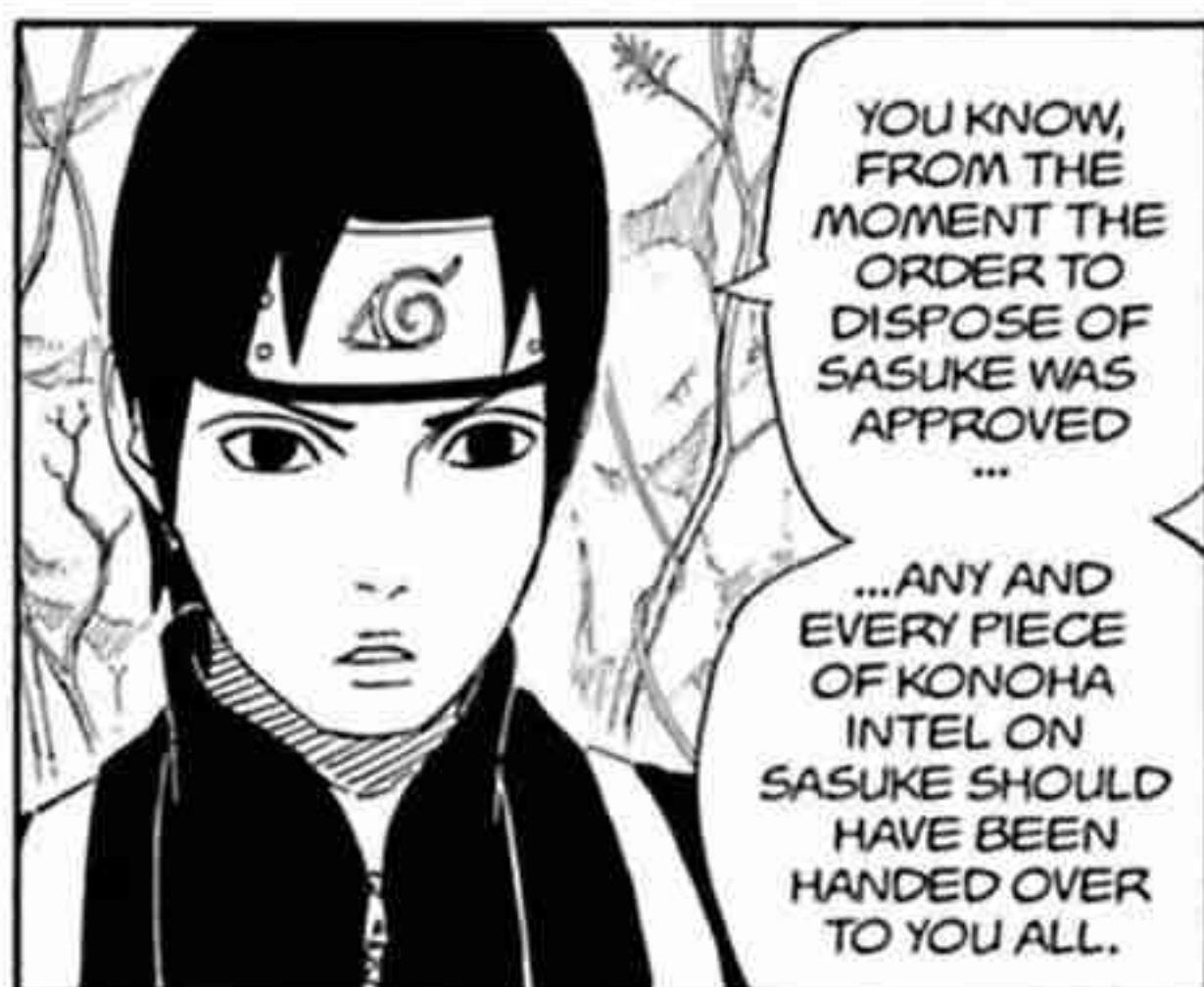
YOU'RE
ABSO-
LUTELY
SURE?!



BUT WEEPING
WON'T
BRING BACK
NEITHER
LORD KILLER
BEE NOR
LADY YUGITO!

IF YOU HAVE
TIME TO CRY,
THEN YOU
HAVE TIME
TO TELL US
ABOUT
SASUKE!

WHAT
ARE YOU
CRYING
FOR!
WE'RE
THE ONES
WHO
SHOULD
WEEP!



YOU KNOW,
FROM THE
MOMENT THE
ORDER TO
DISPOSE OF
SASUKE WAS
APPROVED
...

...ANY AND
EVERY PIECE
OF KONOHA
INTEL ON
SASUKE SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
HANDLED OVER
TO YOU ALL.



WAIT A
MINUTE.

HUH?!

